

The Journal

Volume XI, No. 33

Thursday, April 17, 1997

50 cents (Tax included)

Mark Friedman named to council

By Dawn Frasier

CERRITO — Newly-appointed City Council member Mark Friedman may not yet be a household name in El Cerrito, except as a member of Sustainable El Cerrito for the past year and a half. But, though, bring a wealth of political, redevelopment and consensus-building skills and experience to the highly-charged political arena as the replacement for Mark Ratz who resigned from her city seat last month.

In the past two-plus years, Friedman has served as chief of staff to Alameda County supervisor Alan Chan. He was supervisor Chan's chief of staff for three years previous to that.

He has extensive experience in economic development issues and, according to his written application, "helped to solve difficult regional problems including the Bay in an ecologically sound manner, retaining us in helping to balance large budgets" (Alameda County's \$1 billion), "planning for conversion from a military to a civilian city," and "developing the West Berkeley area plan."

Friedman, who is 46, has gained a reputation for his work in helping the area convert from a military-based economy (he chairs the Creation Committee of the Economic Conversion and Reinvestment Commission) and for his leadership in the development of the Berkeley plan, particularly due to his consensus-building skills he demonstrated in working with residents.

His differences of opinion can then become a strength that will help create more inclusive public policy.'

— MARK FRIEDMAN

At Monday night's council meeting, where Friedman was chosen after a two-hour discussion (see article, page 12), both Mayor Pro Tem Norman La Force and Councilmember Gina Brusatori drew attention to the instrumental part he played in that plan.

A "good track record in dealing with thorny redevelopment issues" was one of the critical factors La Force cited in making his own choice for the vacant seat.

Friedman also believes his consensus-building skills are a strength he brings to the job. He has taught workshops in team building and has facilitated team meetings. He believes "respectful and productive communication" is the key to getting beyond adversarial relationships.

"Our differences of opinion can then become a strength that will

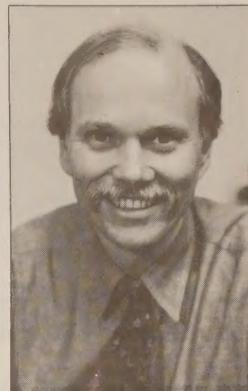


Photo by Jeff Lindquist

New City Councilmember:
Mark Friedman

help create more inclusive public policy," he said.

Friedman serves on the East Bay Conversion and Reinvestment Commission, the Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Joint Powers Authority, the Alameda Reuse and Redevelopment Authority, and non-profit boards including the Youth Employment Partnership, Center for Economic Conversion, and the West Berkeley Neighborhood Development Corporation.

He chairs the Alliance for Public Education in West County and was recently appointed to represent El Cerrito on the Contra Costa Transportation Partnership Advisory Board.

In his application cover letter, Friedman stated his reason for applying for the vacant council seat.

"I have dedicated my career to public service by directing non-profit community organizations and working for local government," he said. "I am excited about applying

for the vacant seat.

Friedman also believes his consensus-building skills are a strength he brings to the job. He has taught workshops in team building and has facilitated team meetings. He believes "respectful and productive communication" is the key to getting beyond adversarial relationships.

"Our differences of opinion can then become a strength that will

See COUNCIL, page 12

Open door to county assessment measure

Agreement allows for more control on local level

By Dawn Frasier

CERRITO — The Contra Costa Board of Supervisors has taken a definite step forward Tuesday, addressing several of the issues facing the county library system. In so doing, the supervisors also opened the door to a countywide library assessment so that, now with the support of all involved, should have a chance of passing on its second round.

El Cerrito residents Thom Stark and West, who attended the meeting, agreed that the plan didn't everyone in every aspect but called a compromise reached by supervisors. The resolution does address much of the concern surrounding the future of the county libraries which are underfunded.

The basic resolution accepted was crafted by County Supervisor Anne Marie Gold and City Administrator Phil West. "In response to all the comments expressed at a previous meeting," said El Cerrito Branch Librarian Janet Hildebrand. "It includes clarifications and some changes."

On March 11 meeting produced a list of citizen comments on a service study commissioned by the Board of Supervisors last April 15. The document is considered to be a compromise to the recommendations made in the study and the city's reaction to its recommendations. The supervisors did add wordsmithing and clarifications.

Everyone agrees that additional funding is needed from somewhere. Contra Costa County spends \$11.25 per capita per annum on library services. In Alameda County, \$22.24 is spent, in San Francisco County, \$29, and in San Mateo, \$32.

Stark points out, though, that "even though we spend shamefully little money, we have a pretty large collection of books, around 2.5 million, and business, technology and other special collections, all of which are free to any patron of the

system."

Residents seem to understand the benefits Contra Costa County libraries provide. According to Hildebrand, the county tops the national and state averages in its percentage of library card holders: 63 percent in the county, 43 percent in California, 53 percent nationally.

They will be asked to determine the library service needs and to make recommendations on how those needs can be met," said Stark, noting that only their apportioned Return to Source share of the assessment funds are under the jurisdiction of the new boards.

The county has pledged to continue the current service levels of all branches at 29 hours from its ongoing budget. It will also guarantee 48 hours at current service levels for the system's central library. (The latter clarification was suggested by West after discussions with one of the city mayors.)

Stark noted that adding hours might be one option subregional boards could choose for use of their Return to Source monies. The City of Danville, he said, already supplements its library hours and service levels to the tune of \$5 million.

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See LIBRARY, page 12

AMS students get head start on Earth Day Kids review four Rs, schedule work on community garden

By Greg Hugunin

ALBANY — As part of a cutting-edge, waste-reduction education program, students at Albany Middle School have been talking — and writing about — trash.

As a supplement to Project Create, coordinated by the Oakland-based East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse, sixth-grade students piled onto buses earlier this year and took a field trip to "The Pit" at the Davis Street Transfer Station in San Leandro. There, they saw first-hand the facility through which just about every piece of trash thrown away in Albany passes.

Beset by a stench of nearly epic proportions, students donned hardhats and bright orange work vests, scaled a narrow metal platform and gazed into the abyss — a 25-foot-deep concrete chasm through which six million pounds of garbage pass daily before being transferred to the Altamont Landfill. Afterward, they learned about the four R's — Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rot — at the transfer station's education center.

Since then, the students donned their thinking caps and set the experience to paper, chipping their two cents into the countywide effort to reduce waste output by 50 percent by the year 2,000. Between 1990 and 1995, Albany reduced its waste output by a hefty 42 percent.

As Joanna Pace, a teacher at the middle school, said at the time, waste-reduction comes down to a few simple changes of habit — buying goods with less packaging, for example. At "The Pit," students saw, and smelled, first-hand the consequences of not doing so, and it apparently made an impression.

"I think what they got out of it is just how much waste is produced in our culture on a daily basis," says middle school teacher Suzanne Ingleby.

But why should The Journal ramble on? Instead, we shall allow the youth to speak for themselves:

Why Should We Recycle?
By Eddy Chow

So kids like us wouldn't have to take field trips to the dump and hear about how nobody recycles. There's

a lot of things we can do to help. For starters, try the four R's. Which I will explain to you now.

The first R-word is Reuse. Many things can be reused. One example is clothes. We always reuse clothes. What if there were disposable clothes? Then people would have to buy lots of clothes. Why not reuse clothes? (even though we do, I'm trying to prove a point.) Just like cloth bags. I do a lot of studying in reptiles and amphibians. I catch them all the time and put them in jars that I reuse, of course. You can also reuse cloth bags. In some places people must pay for plastic bags. And cloth is stronger, anyways.

The next word is Recycle. Recycling is good for the earth because the more things you throw away that are recyclable the more trash the dump has, and the more trash the dump has the more it stinks! In conclusion, do yourself and the earth a favor and please Recycle.

The Four Rs
By Daniel Reichman

Reduce

I think reducing is the most im-

portant "R." I think and know this because if we didn't have so much waste then we wouldn't have to reuse, recycle, or rot it. Reducing does not mean buying or consuming as much as we normally do. It means not making as much waste with what we do buy. Think about it. When you go to the supermarket do you look for the product that's best environmentally packaged? No. You look for the best buy or what you like.

We should really reduce how much garbage we generate. Landfills are filling and space is running out. We can't just dump all our garbage into the ocean. We can't send garbage out into space. What if we ran out of space and garbage started piling up around us? We need to find a good solution but an OK current solution is to reduce.

Rot

Rotting is important for our organic materials. We can't recycle things like apple cores, orange peels, and seeds, but we can compost them. Composting or rotting

See EARTH DAY, page 33

City faces legal mire before cardroom can become reality

By Greg Hugunin

ALBANY — Nearly three years ago, on May 25, 1994, a group of citizen volunteers known as the Albany Fiscal Task Force made a recommendation to the City Council. Faced with a projected budget deficit which would have eventually bankrupted the city had it proved accurate (it did not), the task force recommended the council study the possibility of a cardroom at Golden Gate Fields.

In August, over some objection, some encouragement and much emotion from both sides of what turned out to be a ferocious debate, the council concluded their study and voted 4-1 to place the cardroom on the ballot. Nearly a quarter of a million dollars would be provided by Ladbrooke Racing Corp. to promote the project to city voters — that, a few environmental concessions, and a guaranteed \$1.2 million a year in tax revenue.

On Nov. 8, 1994, nearly two-and-a-half years ago,

Albany voters were faced with the seemingly simple, yes or no question, posed by Measure F: should a cardroom at which "controlled games permitted by law, such as draw poker, low ball poker and Panguingue (PAN)" be allowed at Golden Gate Fields?

Of the nearly 7,000 city residents who made their way to polling places that day, 3,281 said yes, and 3,095 said no (449 did not vote on Measure F at all). The issue was far from resolved though, at least in the minds of some, and today, in 1997, that vote appears to have been only the beginning.

In the wake of the second lawsuit over the proposed cardroom at the racetrack, filed by the Citizens for Responsible Government last week, one thing seems clear: a cardroom is not going to happen any time soon. The citizen-based group, which raises money through garage sales and personal loans from board members, plans to fight to the bitter end, and, as they see it, to

See MIRE, page 12

Buttons by the bushel

By Dawn Frasier

It's got to be one of the tiniest little shops in El Cerrito, but it may well be the most widely known. Look through just the first few pages of Vince and Mary Sortile's guest book, and you'll find they've had visitors from England and Kansas, Massachusetts and Italy, Alberta, Jerusalem, Taiwan, Denmark and Tennessee.

Some visitors have included El Cerrito on their itineraries precisely because it's home to Exclusive Buttons. After all, it's a unique offering in the country. The Sortiles know of only one similar shop in the United States; it's in New York City, and that store makes referrals to El Cerrito.

"It's actually quite different," says Vince Sortile. "They carry more actual antiques than we do, and they're far more expensive. We have a much larger inventory and a much wider variety of types of buttons."

When Sortile refers to antique buttons, he's defining a certain age. His own shop includes some buttons that are 100 to 150 years old. He was delighted, for example, to be able to purchase the button collection.

See BUTTONS, page 36



Photo by Jeff Lindquist

Vince Sortile surrounded by drawers and racks of buttons.

Commentary

Don't turn back clock on childhood diseases

Back in 1927, when I was four years old, I developed diphtheria. I remember being in the hospital for one week, because the doctors were afraid I might choke on diphtheria membrane.

When I was seven years old, I developed whooping cough for six weeks. I was lucky. I recovered without any problems. My friend Jimmy was not so lucky. He died.

Summertime was the time parents became frantic because this was polio season. We could not go swimming, we could not go to the movies and we could not get together in groups. When the summer was over and none of us developed polio, our parents gave a sigh of relief.

In 1951, when I was training in a large metropolitan hospital, I remember the four hospital wards filled with "iron lungs." An iron lung is a large cylinder in which a person with respiratory polio is put. The iron lung helps people breathe. The only part of the body that was out of the iron lung was the head — and the only view of the world was from a mirror hanging from the top of the machine.

Today, as a parent and grandparent, I don't have the same fears and worries that my parents had. We now have vaccines for many diseases. However, only about 50 percent of the children in California are fully immunized by two years of age. This is an opening for an epidemic that shouldn't happen.

Two hundred years ago, an English physician, Dr. Edward Jenner, discovered that disease could be prevented by immunizing patients. Modern medical research has continued to develop a wide range of disease-preventing vaccines, however, many parents do not take advantage of these advances in medical science and have not had their children immunized properly.

Last year in California, there were 46 cases of measles, and 724 cases of whooping cough, including a 6-week-old Bakersfield baby girl who died. Only 57 percent of the children in California are fully immunized by their second birthday. That

makes 43 percent of California's children susceptible to highly contagious, harmful diseases which can cause permanent disability or death. California is also below the national average. California is also below the national average in the percentage of children immunized.

During National Infant Immunization Week, April 20-26, and Toddler Immunization Month in May, the California Coalition for Childhood Immunization (C3I) and its many partners across the state are working to educate parents about available immunization services. We hope to achieve a 90 percent immunization rate among 2-year-olds by the year 2000. But success depends upon parents taking action.

As a parent, it is your responsibility and duty to make sure your children are immunized at the proper time. Your doctor can give your children these vaccines. To be fully protected, young children need to get all their immunizations on time. Many parents mistakenly think their child is protected because they've taken their baby once or twice for shots. But babies need a whole series of shots given on schedule at two, four, six, 12, and 15 months.

Even if you think you're sure, please ask your doctor or health care provider if your children have all the shots they need for their age. If you don't have insurance or money to pay for vaccines, free vaccines are available through doctors' offices, county health departments and the Kids Care Fair. You can also call the Centers for Disease Control Hotline at 1-800-232-2522 to receive a referral to a local immunization clinic.

Please make sure your children are properly immunized. If they don't, take the time to make sure they get them. Their precious lives depend on it. We need not go back to the days of fear and worry over deadly diseases. Immunize your children today — tomorrow may be too late.

Arthur Lisbin, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Childhood Health Consultant



Police Reports

Youth apprehended for burglary

ALBANY — At about 10:30 a.m. on April 9, a resident on the 800 block of Evelyn Avenue reported that while he was in his bedroom he heard a rattling in his garage below.

When he looked out the window he observed a juvenile in a green jacket walking away from his garage door. He went outside but the youth was gone and the garage door was partly open and the lock was missing. Officers located the youth, a 14-year-old Richmond boy, on the BART path. He was found with bolt cutters and the missing lock in his possession. He was arrested for being in possession of burglary tools and for burglary and transferred to Juvenile Hall.

On the afternoon of April 6, Albany officers observed a man pushing a baker's rack on Cleveland Avenue near Buchanan Street. Upon questioning they found he was from Richmond and could not prove the rack belonged to him. He was arrested for theft, cited and released.

On the morning of April 7, the custodian at Marin School reported that over the weekend vandals had sprayed graffiti on the school buildings. There were no witnesses.

On the afternoon of April 7, a resident on the 900 block of Stannage Avenue reported that he had left his house at about 11:30 a.m. that day. When he returned at about 2 p.m. he discovered that someone had broken into his home through the kitchen window. There were no witnesses.

At about 3 p.m. on April 7, an Albany boy reported that a youth he described as a black male juvenile stole his 21-speed Mongoose bike and rode away. This occurred on the 1300 block of Portland Avenue. Police are investigating.

At about 9:45 p.m. on April 7, residents observed three black male juveniles, ages 13 to 14 years old, steal a bike from a Riley Drive apartment and head toward San Pablo Avenue. They were gone when officers arrived.

On the morning of April 8, a resident on the 400 block of Stannage Avenue reported that her garage had been broken into and

that a purple mountain bike had been stolen. There were no witnesses.

At about 8:30 p.m. on April 8, a resident reported that his 8-year-old son was attacked by two juveniles while he was on his way home from Cornell School. Police are investigating.

On the afternoon of April 9 a man reported that while he was walking in a crosswalk on the 1300 block of Solano Avenue he was almost hit by a man driving a blue/silver Mercedes with a handicap sticker. He and the driver exchanged words and the driver hit the pedestrian with his fist. The attacker was last seen going north on Santa Fe. Police are investigating.

At about 12:45 a.m., Albany officers responded to reports of a man, possibly drunk, standing on a corner at Madison Avenue and Buchanan Street and shouting. Officers contacted a transient man who was intoxicated. He was arrested and cited to be released when sober.

At about 2 a.m. on April 10, a resident on the 500 block of Pierce Street reported that when he came home from work he observed a subject, possibly a male, running out of the garage. He then noticed that the window of his van, which was parked in the garage, had been broken. Officers took the report. On the afternoon of April 11, a bicycle business on Solano Avenue reported that two juveniles, described as black males about 10 years old, wearing dark shirts, stole two chrome BMX bikes. They were gone when officers arrived.

Shortly before midnight on April 11, Albany officers stopped an El Sobrante man on San Pablo Avenue near Washington Avenue for a traffic violation. He was found to have outstanding warrants from San Francisco. He was arrested and cited with a Notice to Appear.

At about 3:30 a.m. on April 12, Albany officers stopped a Richmond man riding a bike for traffic violation. He was found to have a No Bail warrant from Oakland. He was arrested, booked and transported to the Oakland jail.

Zero crimes of violence reported

EL CERRITO — There were no violent crimes reported.

A residential burglary was reported in the 7500 block of Lynn Avenue. Someone entered an unlocked window during the daytime or evening March 25. Jewelry, a VCR and other items were reported stolen.

Two Richmond male juveniles were arrested for an attempted residential burglary in the 0-100 block of Pomona Avenue at about 12:04 p.m. April 2. The youth are accused of cutting a garage lock and attempting entry before they were scared off by the residents.

A Rohnert Park man was arrested for the residential burglary of a storage shed in the 5800 block of Avila during the early morning hours of April 2. He is accused of smashing the garage door and lock for entry and ransacking the shed; nothing was reported stolen. He was also found to be under the influence of drugs at the time.

Five Richmond male juveniles were arrested in the 6600 block of

Donald Avenue for attempting to cut the lock off a residential garage with bolt cutters at 10:32 a.m. April 8.

Two Richmond male juveniles were arrested in the 400 block of Clayton Avenue at about 1:35 p.m. April 2. The youth are suspected of cutting the garage lock with bolt cutters, entering and stealing a mountain bike.

A San Rafael man was arrested for driving under the influence at San Pablo Avenue and Knott at 12:56 a.m. April 2. He and a female passenger (a transient) were also accused of possession of methamphetamine.

Three men (residents of El Cerrito, San Jose and Santa Clara) were arrested at 5:40 a.m. April 6, one for driving under the influence, two for being intoxicated in public.

Five arrests were made for driving under the influence: a Monterey

The Journal

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Park man at San Pablo and

(April 7, 11:40 p.m.), a man

at Carlson and Cen-

8, 2:15 a.m.), an El Cen-

at Kearney and Stockton

3:50 a.m.), a man, ad-

ported, at San Pablo and

(April 5, 2:30 a.m.), an

arrest at Schmidt and B-

(April 9, 1:45 a.m.).

Two Richmond men

were arrested for attempt-

ing to break into a house

on Macarthur Avenue

at 11:45 p.m. April 7.

A Richmond man was

arrested for brandishing a

Silver Dollar restaurant

on April 3.

On April 3,

See POLICE

Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 2

what really concerns me is that this small group has begun to make personal attacks on city council members and citizens who do not support them. These attacks include name calling and accusations of backroom conspiracies.

One of their leaders creates crude cartoons that make fun of our city and city council members. They also go after ordinary citizens who dare to express their views. In this very column I have read letters from this group making personal attacks on interested citizens for writing letters expressing views contrary to their own.

This same group has tried to take control of city council meetings with long speeches and diatribes. They have booted and hissed speakers at city council meetings when they have expressed views contrary to their own. Their conduct is such that some residents have felt too intimidated to speak out for fear of incurring this group's wrath. Thank goodness the city council finally adopted reasonable measures, similar to virtually all other public agencies, to control such disrespectful behavior.

We should all recognize the "Alliance's" tactics as a peevish ploy that rings hollow.

It troubles me that the people who complain the most about the supposed lack of community input are the ones who have done their best to drive people away when they disagree with the "Alliance's" preconceived ideas about the Plaza. It is time the so-called El Cerrito Citizens Alliance listened, as our city council has always done, and treated others with the respect they deserve, despite their opposing points of view.

Christopher Chenoweth
El Cerrito

The envelope containing my ballot and Notice of Hearing was postmarked April 5, 1997. The Notice of Hearing scheduled two public hearings, one on May 6, 1997 and one on May 28, 1997. The May 6 hearing is within the 45-day period, the May 28 hearing is not. Only the May 6 hearing comes within the scope of Proposition 218 and, pursuant to the provisions thereof, the ballots must be tabulated at the May 6 hearing.

The ballot specifically states:

"In order to be counted, this ballot must be returned either by mail or in person before 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28, 1997."

Don't you believe it. Your ballot can only be tabulated "at the public hearing" on May 6, 1997, and "At the public hearing" means that all ballots must be tabulated during the public hearing, not "counted after completion of public hearings on the proposed assessment," as stated in the ballot, and not counted before.

Raymond H. Hawkins
Kensington

Good government doesn't require cable coverage

Editor:

I read in the *West County Times* "Letters From Our Readers" of April 2 that Ms. Victoria Hughes believes the El Cerrito Council was "arrogant" in suspending the coverage of council meetings on cable TV. Far from being arrogant, the council made a wise decision, one that is designed to serve all of El Cerrito's residents rather than the disgruntled few.

Ms. Hughes asks what has happened to the "Concept that council members are supposed to be there for the people, representing our needs and wants?" The answer is absolutely nothing has happened to that concept. Efficient and effective government does not require listening to a parade of people, speaking at inordinate length, often with respect to subjects not even on the evening's agenda.

It is a travesty on municipal government to have a council meeting (that of February 3rd), with two agenda items, last until 11 p.m. The days when all citizens gathered under an oak tree on Saturday morning to decide what should be done are long gone. Let the elected representatives of El Cerrito's citizens conduct the city's business without the burden of a few people pandering to the TV audience. The remedy for disgruntled citizens is the

See LETTERS, page 4



Laura Schweitzer, left, and Xiaomang Ba sang in the 1997 All State Choir in Pasadena.

AHS students perform in All State choir

ALBANY — Two students from Albany High School recently participated in the 1997 California All State Choir in Pasadena. Laura Schweitzer and Xiaomang Ba, both juniors, were among only 79 young women and 76 young men chosen from all of California to participate in the All State Choir. The participants were chosen based on their vocal talent at the three regional honor choirs held the previous fall. This year's All State Honor Choir, held April 5, was directed by Eph Ely from the Conservatory of Music/University of

Missouri-Kansas City, where he is chair of the Vocal Studies Division. Dr. Ely holds a Doctorate in Musical Arts from the University of Colorado and Master of Music from the George Peabody College in Nashville.

The choir is sponsored each year by the California Music Educators Association. This was the 50th anniversary of the CMEA, which held its annual statewide convention in Pasadena. Choir and instrumental instructors throughout the state began and participate in CMEA events.

This year's All State Honor Choir

performed pieces by Mendelssohn, Mozart and Pablo Casals as part of the concert. The choir also performed an American jazz piece entitled, "Birth of the Blues" arranged by Strommen and an African piece entitled "O Sifuni Mungu" arranged by Maddux. The choir delighted the audience with "surround sound" music and with a variety of solos and instrumental accompaniments.

This is the first year that Xiaomang, an alto, has participated in the choir. It is the third year for Laura, a soprano.

It troubles me that the people who complain the most about the supposed lack of community input are the ones who have done their best to drive people away when they disagree with the "Alliance's" preconceived ideas about the Plaza. It is time the so-called El Cerrito Citizens Alliance listened, as our city council has always done, and treated others with the respect they deserve, despite their opposing points of view.

Christopher Chenoweth
El Cerrito

Kensington voters beware!

Editor:

If you are a Kensington property owner who has been mailed a ballot for you to vote on an assessment on your property by the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District, be certain that your ballot has been physically delivered to and is in the possession of said District before the public hearing on May 6, 1997.

Article XIII D of the California Constitution (Proposition 218) authorizes only one public hearing on an assessment, provides that the public hearing must be conducted not less than 45 days after mailing notice of a proposed assessment, and provides "At the public hearing, the agency shall ... tabulate the ballots."

HAPPY 30TH ANNIVERSARY

TIME TO UPDATE?
BATH AND KITCHEN DESIGN FAIR

SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH, 1997
10AM - 2PM

Manufacturers Representatives On Hand To Answer Questions

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**April 22, 1997 is
Earth Day...**

But in Albany, every day is Earth Day

Motor Oil Recycling. Recycle Motor Oil at the Curb. Call for a free curbside motor oil collection container. Keep motor oil and other potentially toxic liquids and solids out of the curb, gutter and storm drains.

Recycling. Remember to set recyclables at the curb each week and lawn & garden materials every other week on your regular trash collection day. Call for a bin sticker, schedule or brochure.

Adopt-A-Tree. Beautify Albany neighborhoods. Choose a tree from a City-approved list and pay \$37/tree (\$44 for concrete removal). The tree will be planted in winter 1997.

Get out of the Car. Spring is here and the weather is great, enjoy it. Keep pollution out of the air. Car pool, take the bus, ride a bike. It can be said that bicycling is the most energy-efficient form of transportation. Bike riding can transport one more miles per unit of energy expended than any other method of transportation in the world.

Help Clean A Creek

Attend one or both of these Creek Clean-Up Events. Refreshments provided. Wear old clothes & bring gloves. **April 19, 1997** (9am - 12noon, meet at the El Cerrito Creekside Park, north of Pierce Street, BBQ to follow). **May 3, 1997** (10am - 1pm, meet at Cerrito Creek on the south side of the El Cerrito Plaza).

For more information on Albany's Environmental Resource programs, call the City of Albany, Community Development & Environmental Resources Department. (510) 528-5760

For curbside motor oil collection containers, call Waste Management of Alameda County at (510) 613-8710



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Expires 5/28/97**

11-121 PIUS991

Lesser-known exhibit reveals the beauty of works in wood

There is a warmth and beauty in wood that is found in no other medium. This long-held feeling was heightened the other day when I visited the "Expressions in Wood: Masterworks from the Wornick Collection" exhibit at the Oakland Museum.

Sadly, this wonderful exhibit has not really been publicized, except for an excellent piece about it in the *Winter* issue of the museum. For the most part people have found it because it is next door to the very popular (and rightly so) recycled art exhibit.

The pieces in the wood are all turned (and Connie Mississippi's article about it explains the lathe and turning beautifully), and the results are magnificent. Bowls so light and thin that they are translucent.

Pieces that combine the beauty of finished and polished wood with the equal beauty of the original wood — often burl. And some imaginative pieces such as the scarf thrown across a bowl. You could swear it is really material, and though you cannot, of course, touch the pieces, you ache to assure yourself that it is indeed wood.

I love the pieces made of exotic woods, and those where the grain is the most important decoration. But there are painted pieces, too, that are fascinating, even one that you would swear was a Native American basket. A not-to-be-missed show, but hurry, it soon will be traveling.

A next-door exhibit of recycled art is also fascinating. I thought I knew what it would entail, but I was nowhere near the actuality. A chaise lounge made of aluminum drink cans? Clothing, jewelry, furniture, art objects? How about a dog made of hair brushes, bottle and thumb caps, a Citroen pedal and an umbrella handle?

Community Folk

By Clara Rae Genser



It's called "Hello Again" and it is wonderful to behold.

I manage to visit the Oakland Museum of California far too rarely. What joy to find two such great exhibits in one day.

This column is called Community Folk, and many folk in this community belong to Kaiser. Are you all asking the same questions that plague me?

Kaiser is a nonprofit facility, yes? Then why is it important that the membership grow? The administration complains that membership is "flat." So?

And why does a nonprofit need a profitable "bottom line?"

And if it is not-for-profit what is it for? I would have said for its members. Doesn't that make sense? But now I'm not sure.

It is for its members that Registered Nurses are being replaced by the lesser trained Licensed Vocational Nurses? Kaiser employs both now, to very good effect, each doing what she/he is trained to do. But replace the RNs with LVNs?

It is for its members that hospitals are being closed, and emergency and ICU facilities are being lost? And is it for the members that hospital stays are being shortened abruptly?

I have been proud to be a member of Kaiser for many years, but these questions are haunting me now.

...

And on the subject of questions, here is one that I ask every time I open my mail of late. Why do all of the charities and agencies send their pleading letters at the same time? Doesn't everyone react by becoming numb to the usually very sad stories they usually tell?

My first reaction is "this is terrible, and I must do what I can." Then I open the next letter, and the next, and the next, and each is

needier than the one before, and each is a true exposition of what is happening to cause such need. But after the first few, I find myself numbed and weary. I cannot answer them all, and I have trouble deciding which needs me more, so I put them aside...

And the telephone calls! Even from organizations I know of and admire. I just cannot take them, and must tell them that I don't respond to telephone calls. But they do keep coming.

Thank you for letting me get that one off my chest.

...

I met Dr. Elias Katz again, and it reminded me of the very fine agency he and his late artist wife created: NIAD, National Institute of Arts and Disabilities. NIAD has been more and more in the news of late. It is being recognized for its art as well as of the work it does with disabled people — both of which are intertwined, since the art is by the disabled people. The latest story is about a NIAD artist whose work has been recognized nationally and is in several galleries around the country.

A wonderful facility, doing great work, giving meaning and dignity to the lives of people who, a few years ago, would have no hope of either.

NIAD is located in Richmond on 23rd Street just above Barrett Avenue. It is open to visitors, and is a fascinating place to visit.

...

One of the few good things about becoming a senior is being able to take part in "day trips" put on by many groups and organizations. There are so many fascinating things to see and to learn. I am constantly amazed at the variety of places such day trips go.

My latest one was with the Ber-

...

See FOLK, page 6

Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 3

ballet box — not the television camera.

Television has done little or nothing to enhance the process of governance in El Cerrito, or to facilitate the communication of important information to citizens.

Since television viewers have no access to the council agenda during the broadcast, and no way to review staff reports or even see (let alone read) exhibits displayed in the council chambers, the television broadcast of council meetings does not represent communication with the citizens of El Cerrito in any real and meaningful sense. I believe there are better ways to utilize the city's limited fiscal resources to achieve this important objective, such as:

1. Special programming on key city issues
2. Taping and broadcasting special city events
3. Promoting community-based programs and activities.

I believe that the council is making, in a fiscally responsible manner, a much-needed reassessment of its meeting procedures. In so doing, it deserves commendation and support, rather than vilification and abuse.

John A. Sproul
El Cerrito

No thanks, Cablevision

Editor:

Since nobody at the P.U.C. or my local city government seems empowered to help me with a complaint against T.C.I. Cablevision, I'd like to share it with your readers.

I went out of town without paying my cable bill. I found my cable service not operating when I returned. Phoning T.C.I. all morning finally got me a recording advising "A 5- to 7-minute wait for an operator." A trip to their office revealed "disconnection of service due to nonpayment."

As of January 1, 1997, T.C.I. no longer sends a "Cablegram" to warn you of a pending disconnection, according to the cableperson. It's all explained in the fine print of your statement. Now they cut you off A.S.A.P., and, after your balance is paid, they will reconnect you for \$50!

A reminder of my 15 years as a customer got an offer to waive the new monthly deposit. The supervisor I tried to talk to was just a friendly stone wall.

Well T.C.I., thanks, but no thanks. We're saving up for a satellite dish, and are looking forward to a Disney channel without snow.

Jeff Dutton
El Cerrito

Halt uncivilized behavior

Editor:

The audience at the last two El Cerrito City Council meetings threw numerous insults at members, spoke out of turn, many times interrupting whichever council member was speaking.

This would sometimes provoke some members from a council member which would be interrupted with hoots and jeers. My first-grade son would tell you that they were on a "conflict zone."

These are not the tactics of people who are honestly trying to change policy. What are they trying to accomplish? Rational argument between people with genuine differences of opinion is good for El Cerrito at heart is good for our community in this way new points of view or new approaches to a problem are considered.

However what I watched Monday night weeks ago was destructive and very bad for El Cerrito. The few good points made by a few members were obfuscated by contentious posting.

If you haven't been to a City Council meeting for a while I suggest you attend one and see the civility for yourself. Then let's do what we can end this unbusinesslike behavior at City Council meetings so we can get on with business.

What's the legal opinion?

(The Journal received this copy of the journal letter to El Cerrito City Attorney Howard.)

I am writing on behalf of the many residents of the Del Norte neighborhood, organized under the name "Save Del Norte."

1. We feel that the way the council limited response time in the Key/Knott Boulevard (Agenda Item 3) during last Monday's session violated the Brown Act. Surely a neighbor spokesperson must be given adequate time to respond to technical arguments. In this particular case I have 14 points of disagreement with the engineer's report. I was prevented from responding in spite of many residents offering me their allotment.

I would like your legal opinion, in writing, on this matter.

2. We believe that a court reporter should be present to record statements made during the April 14 meeting.

See LETTERS

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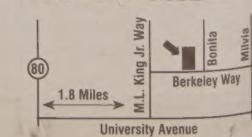
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BUSINESS FOCUS

by Laura Fischer

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For information on the Business Focus, call Advertising at 339-4030.

You just can't lose at Albany Day at Races

Albany Day at the Races

Music, entertainment for both children and adults, great food and fun for all will be available at Albany Day at the Races, Saturday, April 25 at Golden Gate Fields.

Welcoming guests will be Chamber of Commerce representatives and the Albany Booster Band which is made up of 20 big band musicians from Albany and Berkeley High schools and a handful of adults, led by Albany Citizen of the Year, Frank Jensen. The band will play oldies, jazz and swing from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. An Astrojump will be near the north gate entrance for the little ones.

Winners of the Albany Day at

the Races drawing names will be posted at the Albany welcome table and later at the Chamber of Commerce.

This event is open to families with many making it a day long outing. Guests should use the north (Buchanan Street) entrance for general admission and the reserved seating. The drawing tickets sold and those mailed from Golden Gate Fields will give general admission and the reserved seating near the finish line.

A "welcome table" will be placed inside the north gate for guests to visit and from there they will be instructed on how to get their reserved seats. Children under 18 will be admitted free with a paid adult.

Albany Chamber of Commerce

By Fern Luoma



Golden Gate Fields will be mailing free admission tickets to Albany and El Cerrito households. This is part of Albany Day.

Seven eating areas serving food from hamburgers, hot dogs, Italian food, baked potato, corn on the cob, barbecue sandwiches to a micro brew located at the Paddock Pub are just a few items served throughout the first two levels. The Turf Club on the upper level offers gourmet items. Reservations are needed for this location on Saturdays.

Those wishing drawing tickets can pick them up at the chamber office, 1108 Solano Ave. The tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Each ticket gives free admission for Albany Day, a discount coupon for food at Gina's Italian Restaurant located at 600 San Pablo Ave. and free admission to the track with reserved seating. Phone 525-1771 for additional information.

New members

A "Mr. and Mrs. Team" own and operate the Restoran Rasa Sayang Restaurant, 977 San Pablo Ave., one working days and the other takes the evening and night shift.

Natives of Malaysia, Rama and Sundri Krishnasamy, restaurant owners, share in the operation, she during the day and he takes the later hours. Serving Malaysian, Singaporean and Chinese cuisine, there are more than 70 menu items to select from including appetizers, soups, rice and noodles, salads, vegetables, chicken, lamb, seafood, the Malaysian Hawkers Corner, bread specialties, desserts and beverages, including wine and beer. A new

menu is being planned now.

A favorite entree is Redang Ayam, a spicy marinated boneless chicken cooked with lemon grass, lime leaves and served in a thick coconut gravy. A "must have" is the Roti Chanai, a Malaysian Indian bread served with dhal curry. The bread is typical for Malaysians and Indian appetites. It is made of several layers and making it is considered a work of art as it must be prepared properly and expertly. Many customers purchase the bread to eat at home. Another favorite food is Nasi Briyani Ayan, basmati rice cooked with chicken and served with chicken kurma (mild yellow curry) and achar. One may order curry dishes to their own taste.

Sundri trains chefs how to prepare food. She oversees the chefs teaching two new dishes each month. The staff is very friendly, experienced and knowledgeable about the menu. They might suggest guests finish their meal with Malaysian tea or coffee made of condensed milk or regular coffee and tea.

According to Rama, this is the only Malaysian restaurant in the East Bay. He invites all to experience the unique menu and tasty dishes.

The restaurant is decorated in a seaside tropical theme. On the walls are Batik print cloths complemented by fishing nets carefully placed. Restaurant hours are 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday and 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. weekdays. Friday and Saturday hours are

See CHAMBER, page 7



Sundri, left, and Rama Krishnasamy, husband and wife owners of Restoran Rasa Sayang Restaurant. Natives of Malaysia, the couple share the workload, she during the day and Rama in the evening. Serving Malaysian, Singaporean and Chinese cuisine, there are more than 70 menu items to choose from including appetizers, soups, salads and desserts.

Letters

Continued from page 4

hearing on the Del Norte EIR. This record should be made available to the public. We will need to refer to it should we feel it necessary to mount a legal challenge in this issue. We would, of course, prefer to have the meeting videotaped, in which case the court reporter could be dispensed with.

3. The time set for this meeting, 7-11 p.m. is not appropriate for the many elderly and working citizens

of El Cerrito. The council has in the past complained when sessions ran past 10 p.m.

We feel the meeting should be recessed at 10 p.m., and if there are remaining speakers that have not been heard, the meeting be reconvened at a later date. We would prefer Saturday, starting at, say, 11 a.m. This would provide an opportunity to participate, for residents that have problems with evening meetings.

Peter Loubal, El Cerrito

Folk

Continued from page 4

keley/Richmond Jewish Community Center senior activity, which went to visit the windmills at Altamont Pass. The things I didn't know about the windmill farms, what they accomplish, who owns them, how they take part in the economy of energy; all interesting and important facts I didn't even know I didn't know.

Heritage Quilters host renowned fiber artist at April 28 meeting

East Bay Heritage Quilters present their April Speaker — Katie Pasquini — on Monday, April 28, 7:30 p.m., at the First Unitarian Church, 11 Lawson Rd., Kensington.

A renowned fiber artist and teacher, Pasquini will be showing a combination of slides from her quilting trips and the unusual things she found in the course of her travels,

including beautiful works from quilters all over the world. It promises to be a humorous look at the world from a quilter's point of view.

Admission is free to members, \$3 for non-members.

For questions or further information, please call Ulli Hanley, 524-3760.

My e-mail is crgenser@aol.com.

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Newsline

REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEET

The Kensington Area Republican Women's Club will have their monthly meeting and luncheon at noon on Wednesday, April 30, at the Mira Vista Country Club (end of Cutting Boulevard) El Cerrito. The social hours is at noon and luncheon at 12:30 p.m.

The deadline for receipt of reservations is April 26.

The tickets are \$10 per person and reservations may be made with Dorothy Champion, 2687 Tamalpais Ave., El Cerrito, phone 237-4152. Your reservation will be confirmed on receipt of your check (made out to KARW).

The guest speaker will be Ann Jordan. Jordan is District Director for Assemblywoman Lynne Leach (15th District). She will speak on the Assembly legislative actions during this year.

STATUS OF MEDICARE

"Reality Check: What is the Status of Medicare" is the theme of a talk by Dennis Lyon, Program Manager for the Contra Costa County Health Insurance Care and Advocacy Program at the April 22 meeting of the El Cerrito Democratic Club at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave. in El Cerrito, across from El Cerrito High.

The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. with the program at 8 p.m. The public is invited. For more information or comments please contact Rolf M. Weber at 524-8142 or fax 527-6212 or e-mail RWeber1016@aol.com.

CONGRESS OF REPUBLICANS DINNER

The Kensington — El Cerrito Congress of Republicans is sponsoring a dinner on Friday, April 18.

It will be held at Spenger's Restaurant, 1919 4th St., Berkeley.

The speaker is Robert Nicholas who most recently was President of Citizens for a Safe and Orderly Community. He is also a member of the Crime Victims' Fund, a former political activist and dedicated to the strengthen of citizens' rights. Citizens for a Safe and Orderly Community is a statewide volunteer organization formed in 1970 to fight for the rights of victims of crime.

The public is cordially invited to attend the event. Dine and dance are available by reservation only. The cost is \$10 per person. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7 p.m.

WORKSHOP IN GOSPEL SINGING, PERFORMING

Contra Costa College's short-term gospel workshop allows singers of all ages to come together and perform a gospel music concert. The class starts April 17.

The four-day non-credit MUSIC 853-70, Chorus for Older Adults, in which participants will study, rehearse and perform gospel music.

The class is open to singers of all ages, both professionals and amateurs. It meets at St. John Mission Church, 662 South 52nd Street, El Cerrito. Class meeting times: 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 18; 1 p.m. Saturday, April 18; 5:30 p.m., Sunday, April 19. The concert is open to the public.

There is no enrollment fee for the class, although there is a small charge for music. Call the Contra Costa Community Education Office, extension 434.

NEARSIGHTED VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EYE STUDY

An investigational procedure to potentially correct nearsighted individuals is being evaluated by the Vision Correction Center at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). We are currently recruiting a limited number of nearsighted individuals with a prescription of -1.00 to -3.00, over 21 years of age, and not pregnant, to participate in this clinical study to determine the safety and effectiveness of the Intrastral Corneal Ring to reduce nearsightedness.

All costs for the procedure and post-operative care are covered, and participation is free.

For enrollment information, please fax your name, address, telephone number and eyeglass prescription to:

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chamber

continued from page 6

ended until 10 p.m., Sunday, from 9:30 p.m. Phone 525-525-5255.

Cindy Williams will soon be celebrating her first anniversary after opening her hair salon, Sculpting Friendships in Hair, located at 918 San Pablo Ave. Wilson and John Ortiz, both associates of Giovanni's Cutting Salon, do their best to make clients feel as comfortable as possible, giving quality professional service in a friendly atmosphere.

Always wanting to "do" hair, Wilson started beauty college at 16 years of age. As an 8-year-old, she would style her mother's hair for fun.

The salon is open Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments may be made however, they are not always necessary.

Salon specialties are hair cuts, permanents and colors.

Wilson and her husband, David, renovated and decorated the inviting salon. One feels welcome in the well-lighted and attractive salon decorated with potted plants and soft colors. Wilson has 17 years as a cosmetologist; Ortiz has 20 years experience.

Always wanting to "do" hair, Wilson started beauty college at 16 years of age. As an 8-year-old, she would style her mother's hair for fun.

The salon is open Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments may be made however, they are not always necessary.

Phone 524-9292.



New chamber members Cindy Williams and John Ortiz provide quality service in a comfortable atmosphere at Sculpting Friendships in Hair located at 918 San Pablo Avenue. Call 524-9292 for appointments.

Ensemble Sans Souci presents 'Four Seasons for Three'

Ensemble Sans Souci presents "4 Seasons for 3 — Vivaldi's Masterpiece in Miniature," featuring Bob Andrews, baroque flute and recorder; Julie Jeffrey, viola da gamba; and Joseph Kimbel, harpsichord. Sunday, May 4, at St. Albans's Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington, at 3 p.m. \$10 donation suggested (\$7 for St. Albans's parishioners).

The Four Seasons of Antonio Vivaldi (1725) are perhaps the best-known concertos that come down to us from the Baroque (apart from that other serious contender, J.S. Bach's "Brandenburg Concertos").

These musical portraits of nature have been newly framed by Bay Area harpsichordist Joseph Kimbel, in his arrangement of this work for concertato (solo) harpsichord with baroque flute and viola da gamba, after the manner of Jean-Philippe Rameau's "Pieces de

Clavecin en Concerts" (Concerted Harpsichord Pieces) of 1741. The concert is, as it were, Vivaldi with a French accent.

The transfer of these string concertos to an even more intimate trio medium is, surprisingly, quite successful. (Numerous solo keyboard transcriptions of Italian concertos survive from the 18th century; J.S. Bach and J.G. Walther are the most noted arrangers.)

This program is complemented by sonata movements from the "Opus 13" "Il Pastor Fido" (The Faithful Shepherd), published in France in 1737, attributed to Vivaldi, but now known to be a clever imitation.

Nonetheless, recognizing the wide popularity of his works in France and their influence throughout Europe as a whole, some of these mock-Vivaldi movements will be included. Call 621-3085, e-mail boba@grin.net.

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Arts & Letters

■ East Bay Events



Tee Fee Swamp Boogie Band is one of the performers at this year's Earth Day Celebration, April 19 at Martin Luther King Park.

Earth Day activities in Berkeley

Berkeley Earth Day will be celebrated on Saturday, April 19, with a free event from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Martin Luther King Park at Allston and MLK Jr. Way in downtown Berkeley. The eco-motion parade starts at 11 a.m. with kids and adults walking, biking, stiltwalking, driving electric cars and using other forms of non-polluting transportation.

The day's festivities will include:

Speakers: Judy Brady, Toxic Links Coalition, Women's Cancer Resource Center

Deborah Berman Santana, Urban Ecology

A tribute to the life of Earth First!er Judi Bari who recently died of cancer.

Performers: Tee Fee (Cajun dance) Jackeline Rago & Grupo Campana (Afro-Venezuelan)

Teokalli (Aztec dance)

Jennifer Berezan (folk)

La Peña Community Chorus

Olivia Corson (performance art)

Jessie Wakoda (performance art)

Singing Rainbow Youth Ensemble

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Kid's Eco-art making area with East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse

StarLab (portable planetarium)

Berkeley Farmer's Market

Vegetarian food, craft and community booths.

The event is sponsored by the city of Berkeley and co-sponsored by Missing Link Bike Shop, Progressive Asset Management, Inkworks, Birkenstock, Voila Juices and the Department of Conservation.

California Native Plant Sale

The Regional Parks Botanic Garden at Tilden Regional Park will hold its annual plant sale Saturday, April 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. featuring Manzanita, Ceanothus, Iris, and bulbs, as well as plants that attract birds and butterflies. Homemade cookies and cold drinks will be for sale. All proceeds benefit the Botanic Garden.

Pacific Coast Collegiate Jazz Festival

The 23rd Annual Pacific Coast Collegiate Jazz Festival will be held Friday and Saturday, April 18 and 19 and will feature 60 jazz groups from colleges and universities, including performances by several of the UC Jazz Ensembles. The UC Big Band will perform Saturday at 7 p.m., followed by the Joe Lovano Quartet/Christian McBride Quintet at 8 p.m. both in Zellerbach Hall. Day passes for the festival are \$7 per day and \$10 for both days. For complete event listing or further information call 642-5062.

'Knight's Tale' comes to Speakeasy Theatre

Knight's Tale, a story of two young knights who battle for the woman they both love, will open at the Speakeasy Theatre April 25, starring Terry Lamb as the *Canterbury Tales* Pilgrim Sir Knight. Lamb is an Albany resident.

The play is enhanced by an original musical score by award-winning Berkeley composer John Geist, whose theatrical scores include music at the California Shakespeare Festival, Berkeley Repertory Theater and with Magdalena Group. Geist is currently nominated for a 1996 Bay Area Critics Circle Award for original music for the *Knight's Tale*.

Tickets are \$10 general with special rates. Call 845-4100 for reservations.



Terry Lamb as Pilgrim Sir Knight

Local journalist speaks at Easy Going

Bay Area journalist Roxane Farmanfarmaian, a west coast correspondent for Publishers Weekly, reads from and discusses her new book, *Blood & Oil: Memoirs of a Persian Prince* on Thursday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. at Easy Going Travel Shop and Bookstore, 1385 Shattuck Ave.

Farmanfarmaian and her father Prince Manucher Farmanfarmaian tell a true story of their families' involvement in Persia's opulent high life during the Shah. Born into Iran's most aristocratic family, director of national Iranian Oil and advisor to the Shah, the now exiled Manucher provides a candid view of the world's petroleum politics. For information call 843-3533.

It's Springfest '97 at International House

The International House's major event of the year, Springfest, is Saturday, April 19 from 1 to 7 p.m. at 2299 Piedmont Ave. The festival

■ More East Bay events next page

Perla's new piece nods to Coltrane

By Carol Egan

On Friday the Oakland East Bay Symphony will premiere a work by Oakland resident Jack Perla. *Trane of Thought* was commissioned by the symphony to feature the Oaktown Jazz Ensemble, young jazz musicians on brass and reed instruments supported by a professional adult rhythm section. The group is led by Khalil Shaheed, who joins in on trumpet.

Originally from New York State, Perla holds degrees from New York University, the Manhattan School of Music, and Yale.

"As a performer I'm a jazz musician," says Perla. "But I've always run on parallel tracks, devoting equal time to composition. At the same time, the music I compose has never looked away from jazz and other American music—quite the opposite. Since the challenge of this commission was to feature the jazz combo in 'opposition' to the orchestra, it has been an ideal project

for me."

OEBS music director Michael Morgan shares with Perla a keen interest in synthesizing the old with the new. Perla is no stranger to the OEBS, having already had two works performed here. In 1991 the orchestra played his *Dance Sinfonietta*, originally composed for a choreography workshop at Dance Theatre of Harlem. Last year Perla's *Luminarium*, originally commissioned by the OEBS in 1994, was given its Bay Area premiere by the orchestra.

Interviewed three weeks ago in his Oakland apartment, the 38-year-old composer appeared relaxed and optimistic. Discussing his background, Perla stated that his real interest in music developed when he began studying the piano at age 9, after what he terms a "false start" with a less-than-satisfactory guitar teacher.

"I really took to it at that point. I went through a succession of teachers and kept trying to climb the musical ladder."

By the time he was mid-way through high school, Perla knew he wanted to pursue a career in music.



He claims he was able to find good teachers only after moving from the suburbs to New York City to attend college.

Until that time, he says, "I was mostly self-taught."

Because of having to find his own way in those formative years,

he especially appreciated values programs such as jazz music programs at Berkeley High School and Berkeley's Young Musicians Program.

See PERLA

Young jazz musicians join OEB Symphony

By Carol Egan

Young local musical talent will once again be presented by the Oakland East Bay Symphony in its concert on Friday, Jack Perla's *Trane of Thought*, commissioned by the symphony, features the Oaktown Jazz Ensemble. Under the direction of Khalil Shaheed, the ensemble consists of youth from 13 to 18 playing brass and reed instruments. They are supported by

a rhythm section made up of professional musicians, including Ed Williams on bass, Achyutan on percussion, and Shaheed on trumpet. For this occasion the ensemble will be joined by composer Perla on piano.

The idea for the piece arose after OEBS music director Michael Morgan, hearing the ensemble play at the opening of the Jack London Cinema, invited them to guest with the symphony. Although Morgan didn't yet have a work in mind, he turned to Perla, whose music he knows well, and commissioned him to compose something for jazz ensemble and orchestra.

Catching up with Shaheed before a recent rehearsal at the Dimond Recreation Center, I was able to learn about the ensemble and its formation.

"We actually started in September of 1995," said Shaheed. "It was basically my idea, but the city [of Oakland] helped a lot in organization, and they gave me my original funding. They had

some NEA money, and people at Cultural asked if I could organize sort of after-school program.

That gave rise to the Oaktown Jazz Workshop idea.

beginning in 1996 was a joint venture between the Oakland Jazz Workshop and the Oakland Jazz Ensemble.

"It's enough good day, have a sion, ci, and work.

For me, it's a level, and can one instru

Not only do they get instruction, but we're family and they get to see how we live.

"We all play living, and that's basic we do. So it's like mentorship. I think I learned a lot, aside from the instruction."

The original NEA gr

eluded fees for the pro

See OAKTOWN JAZZ



Khalil Shaheed, director of the Oaktown Jazz Ensemble with some of his young musicians.

New version of 'Anna Karenina' is stunning

By Renata Polt

As a person who sees an average of three movies a week, I rarely wish that a movie were *longer* than it is. But I did with *Anna Karenina*, a stunning new version of Leo Tolstoy's classic written and directed by Bernard Rose, a British whose main previous credit is *Immortal Beloved*, a biographical film on Beethoven.

Although this *Anna* still leaves a lot tentative, such as the relationship between the novel's two main couples (Anna/Vronsky and Levin/Kitty), it includes far more than earlier film incarnations, such as the famous Greta Garbo one of 1935 or the Vivian Leigh/Ralph Richardson 1948 version. On top of that, the characters' emotions are so overwhelming and the visuals so glorious that I simply didn't want it to end.

In brief, for those unfamiliar with the story: Young, beautiful Anna (Sophie Marceau), married to the much older Alexi Karenin (James Fox), falls in love with the dashing young officer, Count Vronsky (Sean Bean), and leaves husband and child to be with him. In contrast to the emotional devastation caused by this affair is the pure and selfless love of Constantin Levin (Alfred Molina), a wealthy but morally scrupulous landowner, and Kitty (Mia Kirshner), a distant relation of Anna's. (Their love story has been omitted from most previous film ver-

sions.)

As young graduate students, my girlfriends and I used to play the game: What literary character would you like to marry? Levin's name came up more frequently than any other. My heart no longer throbs quite that way about Levin, but it's easy to understand why previous director have chosen to omit him. As an embodiment of Tolstoy's beliefs (Christian spirituality — no, Levin is not Jewish — and solidarity with the peasantry), he's difficult to portray. Anyway, virtue always plays less interestingly than vice. Molina, an experienced character actor (*Dead Man, Before and After*), does Levin justice if anyone can.

Sophie Marceau (*Braveheart*) is an exotically beautiful Anna, torn between her passion for Vronsky and her love of her child, whom her husband takes away. The scene in which Anna steals back to the house to see the little boy is as wrenching in the movie as I remember it from the novel. As in most 19th century stories of adultery, it's the woman on whom society's outrage rests. Anna's frustration at the role she's forced to play — she has to stay home while Vronsky enjoys himself at the opera and at dinner parties — is as shown to be as responsible as anything else for her tragedy.

Filmed in Moscow and St. Petersburg, in



Anna (Sophie Marceau) comforts her

See ANNA, page 9

See ANNA, page 9

East Bay Events

Celebration of the world's peoples, cultures and creativity and a continuous performance, food from around the world, arts and international consults, children's games and activities and a international fashion show. Spring fest will also feature over 60 and stands offering art, handicrafts, displays and food. There are ceremonial and multicultural, guided, hands-on activities for children. For more information call 642-9460.

Russian Village Festival at Zellerbach

Performances and UC Berkeley's Center for Slavic and East Asian Studies welcome the Russian Village Festival at 8 p.m. on April 17 at Zellerbach Hall. Seven regional folk groups from representing different areas of the country will perform. The Village Fair to the Stage: Rituals and Celebrations of the People. This 65-member assemblage will bring a collection of dances and festival customs. Performances are priced at \$14, \$20 and \$26 and are available through the Box Office at Zellerbach Hall. Call 642-9988 for further information.

'Back to Basie' at Berkeley Library

'Back to Basie' celebrates the music of Count Basie with three free events weekend at the Berkeley Public Library. The library's ninth annual festival features rare film footage, a Kansas City combo and an 18-piece band. Free copies of Basie's autobiography, *Good Morning*, will be given away as door prizes each night. The event will run Friday, April 25, through Sunday, April 27 in the Library Reading Room at 2090 Kittredge St. On Friday at 7:30 p.m. *Basie and Friends*, two hours of rare film footage, curated by historian Mark Cantor. Saturday features pianist, arranger Ellen Hoffman brings a combo together with Brenda Boykin, Melecia Magdaleno, Eddie Pasternak, Ruth Kent and Kent Bryson. The event closes with the Ernie Small Big Band on Sunday night. Information call the library at 644-6100.

'Wings in color' at Madame Mustards

'Wings in Color', a collection of colored pencil portraits and studies by Berkeley artist Pamela Markmann are currently on display at Madame Mustards, 2748 Adeline St., through May. The new show runs from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For the Black Repertory Group's summer production of *Beauty, a tale told slightly off the wall* will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, April 28, 29 and 30, at 7 p.m. at the Black Repertory Group Theater, 3201 Adeline St. Students age 8 to 18 are encouraged to try out Call 652-2120 or 652 for further details.

Beauty, a tale told slightly off the wall is a comedy partly on fractured fairy tale and partly on a parody of children's stories in general. Many of the 14 young actors chosen will play more than one role and the entire cast will also be the backstage crew. The show will run Thursday, Friday and Saturday from July 1 through August 16, with an afternoon and an evening performance.

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Perla

Continued from page 8

Perla's interest in jazz developed somewhat late.

"I wasn't really hearing jazz until the end of high school. I didn't have those sorts of teachers. So it was more in the nature of playing rhythm and blues or rock and roll. I first got serious about it in college."

In high school Perla, like many youngsters of that age, participated in rock bands. Later, during his college years, he played in jazz groups.

In 1994 Perla's wife, a scientist, was offered a research position at Stanford. Deciding to come to the West Coast, at least for the summer, Perla called his friend Michael Morgan, who suggested that he contact the Young Musicians Program. The program, now about 30 years old, provides private lessons and an intense comprehensive summer program for musically gifted youth who cannot afford to study privately.

Perla's timing was right; the

program was just then looking for teachers. Perla was hired and has been on the faculty ever since.

During the school year he directs the YMP Jazz Combo and gives private lessons. In the summer he is involved in multiple ways with the comprehensive program. His own background gives him an appreciation for the program and his involvement in it.

In addition to teaching, Perla also performs and composes commercial music; he is currently preparing a jazz CD for release in May.

Congratulated for being able to make a living in his chosen field,

'Since the beginning of March I've been going to rehearsals and working intensively with Khalil and the kids.'

—JACK PERLA

Perla laughs and retorts, "I'm certainly not able to buy East Bay real estate yet."

Asked about his collaboration with the Oaktown Jazz Ensemble, Perla says, "Since the beginning of March I've been going to rehearsals and working intensively with Khalil and the kids."

"I didn't undercut the music on account of it being young people. I didn't want to do that, so I'm asking them to rise to the occasion, which they're doing."

Choosing a signature John Coltrane composition, "Impressions," was no accident. Coltrane is often the object of hero worship

by much younger musicians. The melodies Perla chose to work with are open-ended and present rich possibilities for development and variation. The work brings the energy and rhythm of jazz together with the narrative scope of classical music while still leaving room for improvisation.

Mozart, Beethoven and Stravinsky

In addition to Perla's work, Friday's program includes Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 with pianist Christopher Taylor, Beethoven's Symphony No. 4, and Stravinsky's Concerto in D for Strings. All works will be conducted by Michael Morgan.

Pianist Christopher Taylor was bronze medal winner in the 1994 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

The concert is at 8 p.m. Friday at the Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway. Tickets are \$11 to \$33, available through the Paramount box office, 465-6400.

Oaktown

Continued from page 8

musicians. After the grant ended, the ensemble received further funding from an Oakland-based organization called Philanthropic Ventures Corporation. With the recent expiration of that grant, Shaheed hopes to find another foundation or individual donor.

While the group slowly gathers, Shaheed speaks about Perla's piece stating, "It's not done often—jazz band and symphony orchestra. What I really appreciated about the way he did this music is that he didn't water it down and say, 'Well, I'm writing something that kids are playing.' This piece of music would stand up with grown-ups, professional musicians for 40 years."

At this point, hearing Shaheed emphasize the difficulty of the piece, Ed Williams adds, "The kids

don't know it, though."

The first of the youngsters to arrive is 13-year old alto saxophone player Marcelo Vaz, a student at Montera Junior High School in Montclair.

Shaheed explains, "He's one of the guys who's been with me the longest. He's been here from day one."

Asked if he chose the students by audition, Shaheed responds, "Actually, it was kind of like water seeking its own level. A bunch of kids came around, but the ones that were serious and liked me just gravitated and stuck. The core group comes to both workshops. We work both here [the Dimond Recreation Center] and the Alice Arts Center."

"Other people leave and come back again, which is cool. But there's always a core group that

really wants to learn."

Although the general ambiance in the workshop is casual, Shaheed had to lay down some rules for those kids involved in this project.

"When I found out that we were doing this, and really when we had the music in hand, I had to say, 'You have to be here. If you're going to do this concert, you have to be at all the rehearsals.'

"The guys that are playing with the symphony are the ones that have shown me the best work ethic, are the most serious about their music, and have progressed the most in the time that I've known them."

By now the group has assembled and a warm-up session begins with "Simply Brian," a tune composed by 16-year-old El Cerrito High student Josiah Woodson for his new baby brother.

Karenina

Continued from page 8

such magnificently reconstructed sites as the Winter Palace and the Hermitage, *Anna Karenina* is almost overpoweringly opulent. In a scene in which Kitty runs down a gallery of one gilded, curlicued room to another (echoed shortly after by Anna running along the same gallery in the opposite direction), you feel the characters almost dwarfed by their settings.

The film is very *Russian*: There's some Russian dialogue (when the aristocrats speak to the peasants), and all the music, directed by Sir Georg Solti, is by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff and Prokofiev.

One tiny quibble: The actual title of the film is *Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina*—to distinguish it from *Danielle Steel's Anna Karenina*? *Stephen King's Anna Karenina*, perhaps? Hey, I have news for you movie moguls: Anyone who doesn't recognize the title *Anna Karenina* won't recognize the name Leo Tolstoy, either.

Anna Karenina opens in San Francisco on April 18 and elsewhere on May 2nd.



The Casebolt House, 1912

Architectural tour is Sunday

The Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association will hold its 22nd annual House Tour and Reception on Sunday, April 21, from noon to 5 p.m. This year's tour is Thousand Oaks, The Legacy of the Arts and Crafts Movement in

North Berkeley.

The tour includes the interiors and gardens of eight houses from the first years of the century, featuring the work of architects John Hudson Thomas, Bernard Maybeck, Walter Steilberg, William Knowles and Noble Newsom. Thousand Oaks, subdivided in 1909, has great natural beauty and a rich architectural legacy, with houses hugging the knoll, looking out over the Bay, set in gardens with giant boulders and oak trees. There will be a reception at one of the houses. Tickets are \$21 for members of BAHA and \$26 for the general public.

Houses on the tour include craftsman bungalows and chalets, a honeymoon cottage, a stockbroker Tudor and English country houses, all built when living in Thousand Oaks was like living in the country.

For further information or reservations, please call the Berkeley Architectural Heritage office at 841-7421 or 841-2242. Reservations may also be made by writing to BAHA, P.O. Box 1137, Berkeley, Ca. 94701.

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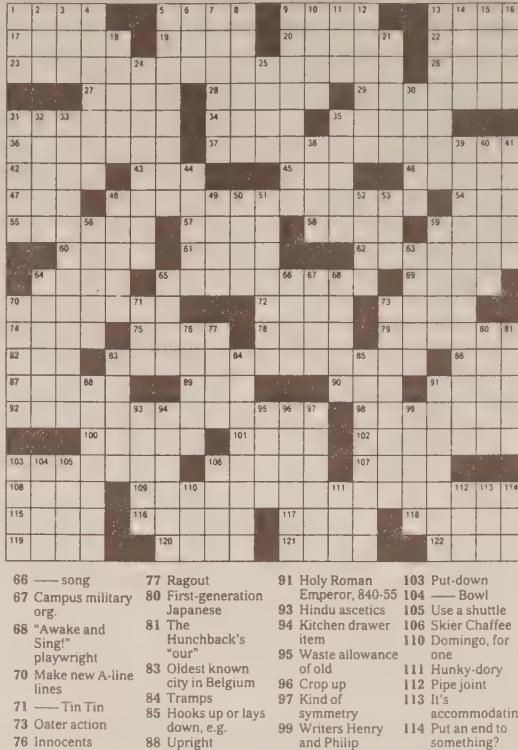
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MY CATHY MILLHAUSER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS	48 MANY UPGRADES!	101 Dagwood's sweetheart before Blondie	14 Latin counterpart of "iso-"	20	21	22	13	14	15	16	
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Comic Philips	92 FULL BASEMENT!	12 Bread for tacos	64 Oft-grated cheese								
dress	98 Rower, e.g.	13 Unfortunate	65 Hurdle for anatty-to-be								
	100 Some earrings										



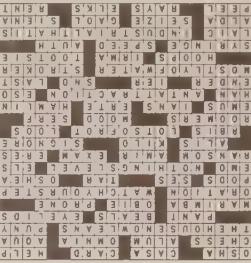
Poetry winners announced

For the second year in a row, Carolyn Cogan of Walnut Creek was declared winner of the grand prize at the Poets' Dinner held in Berkeley March 22. Her title was "The Cooks of Terazin," from the category Beginnings and Endings.

Maggie Morley of Kensington was three times a winner, receiving first prize for her Beginnings and Endings poem, "The Januaries," third prize for "Marthe Mary," People, and third honorable mention for "The Sneeze," a Poet's Choice entry. 13 contestants became double winners.

From his wheelchair, paraplegic Lee Williams spoke to Two-Way Streets, theme of the 71st consecutive Poets' Dinner, and urged adherence to a positive lifestyle.

Contest entries are submitted anonymously, winning poems read at the dinner. Hopefuls must



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Dishing the Dish

with The Maven

The Maven bumped into Maggie and Bob Klein, the lovely owners of Oliveto, and boy are they relieved that their several-month renovation is almost completed. Now you can sit downstairs, in what I think is the hippest boite in town, and have the same food that they're eating upstairs. An additional advantage of being downstairs is that you can also have pizza, and be closer to the espresso machine, in a more casual atmosphere. Bob, incidentally couldn't believe that the *Wine Spectator* chose Oliveto as one of the Top 10 Italian restaurants in the entire country. But, he'll take it anytime. We all know what a fab job Paul Bertolli has done with that cucina ...

Speaking of fab kitchens, did you see the lineup of chefs who'll be dishing it up at this year's Napa Valley Auction, which is always the wine and food event of the year. For openers Thursday night June 5, Douglas Rodriguez of Patria (NYC) will be cooking at *Beringer Vineyards*, also from NYC, the chefs at the famous steakhouse *Smith & Wollensky* will be bringing their aged prime to *Charles Krug*, and Sylvain Portay (Ritz-Carlton, S.F.) will be at *Chateau Potelle* ...

Also in Napa, Michael Chiarello (*Tra Vigne*) will cook for five wineries, Mark Militello (*Mark's Place*, Miami), will be at *Grace Family Winery*, Alain Rondelli of the same name S.F. restaurant will be at Joseph Phelps, Anne Rosenzweig (*Arcadia*, *The Lobster Club*, NYC) will cook at *Spottswoode*, and Thomas Keller (*French Laundry*) will serve up lunch at *Araujo* the next day ...

And that's just for starters. For the two gala dinners for 2,000 Friday and Saturday nights, the roster includes David and Anne Gingras (*Hawthorne Lane*), Piero Selvaggio (*Valentino*, L.A.), Gerald Hirigoyen (*Fringle*), Mark Miller (*Coyote Cafe*, Santa Fe), and Cindy Pawlcyn (*Fog City*, *Mustards*, et al), Nancy Oakes (*Boulevard*), and Nancy Silverton (*Campanile*, L.A.). Wow! ...

Dates are June 4-8 at the Meadowood Country Club and environs. Call 707-942-9775 to see if any ducats remain. Hurry ...

Also up in Napa, what has happened to Jeremiah Tower's *Star's* in Oakville? Tower is supposed to be cooking at the Napa Auction, but the restaurant has been closed for awhile ... Also, look soon for Greenwich Village import *Dean & DeLuca* super upscale market to open soon at Highway 29 between Rutherford and St. Helena. D&D is lower Manhattan's Italian version of uptown's Jewish *Zabar's*. If you think the Oakville Grocery on Highway 29 has some gourmet items, watch out for D&D to give Oakville a good run for its money ...

Closer to home, the California Shakespeare Festival will be hosting a fund raising "Bard's Birthday Dinner" April 26 at the Sequoyah Country Club on Heafey Road. The night includes a silent auction, a three-course dinner with music, and actors from CSF. Tix are \$130. For more info, call 548-3422 ...

On May 20, the Bay Area will be celebrating the 10th "Taste of the Nation", which brings together the region's top restaurants, wineries, breweries, and bakeries. One hundred percent of the proceeds will go toward local food banks ...

A taste of the long list of participants include the East Bay's *Citron*, *Lalime*, and *Rivoli*. In fact, Rivoli's Wendy Brucker will be giving a cooking demo in The Cellar at Macy's S. F., May 17 at 11 a.m. The event itself three days later will be held aboard the Hornblower Dining Yacht, California Hornblower, on Pier 33. Tickets are \$85. Call 415-495-2331 for reservations.



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■ **Martin Snapp**

I Love A Gershwin Tune: It was a scene straight out of a '30s backstage musical: Three weeks before the "new" Gershwin musical, "Crazy For You," was scheduled to open at the El Cerrito Community Theater, the costume designer died. And his lover — the leading man — was so grief-stricken, he couldn't go on with the show.

That meant a new actor, Michael Ryken, had to step in at the last second. He spent the time learning his lines, while producer Kimberly Mayer scrambled to find some costumes.

Well, I saw the opening Saturday night, and I can report that the costumes were great and Ryken was brilliant. In fact, the whole company was.

From the moment the orchestra struck up the opening notes, I knew I was in for a fun ride, because director Todd Ewing wisely trotted out the chorus line and had them boop-boop-a-doo their way through the entire overture.

The reason I call "Crazy For You" the "new" Gershwin musical is that it's only been around since 1992. Basically, it's an excuse to cram as many Gershwin songs as possible into two hours.

And what songs! "Embraceable You," "Shall I We Dance?" "Slap That Bass," "Nice Work If You Can Get It," "They Can't Take That Away From Me" and the exquisite "Someone to Watch Over Me," to name just a few.

Unless you really know what you're doing — and have the talent to back it up — a production like this could be a disaster.

But done right, with singers who can actually sing, dancers who can actually dance, and a director who knows the importance of pace and timing, the whole thing comes up lighter than a *soufflé*. That's what happened Saturday night.

Kudos all around, especially to Ewing, choreographer Kris Bell (owner of Studio J in Berkeley), leading lady Terri J. Skye (who makes the phrase "lovely and talented" more than just a cliché), the aforementioned Mr. Ryken, and fellow actor John Dey. One of the highlights of the show is a hilarious mirror-image *pas de deux* Ryken and Dey perform, a loving parody of a classic Marx Bros. routine.

And a special kudo for the youngest member of the cast, 12-year-old Sam Black, who — when he isn't singing and dancing up a storm — plays first base for the Cubs in the Albany Little League.

The Contra Costa Civic Theater, which produced this show, is 37 years old. I regret to say that this is the first one of their productions I've seen. It won't be the last.

...

Incidentally, if you love musicals as much as I do, I urge you to visit Washington, D.C. before July 7. There's a great exhibit until then at the National Portrait Gallery called "Red Hot & Blue: A Salute To The American Musical," and it has stuff you wouldn't believe, including film of George M. Cohan (looking and moving a lot like Jimmy Cagney, by the way) Irving Berlin's piano, Judy Garland's ruby slippers from "The Wizard of Oz" and Paul Robeson singing "Old Man River" from the original "Show Boat."

But my favorite are the two self-portraits painted by George and Ira Gershwin.

George was tall and slim and elegant and a lady's man like you wouldn't believe. He must have bedded every actress and starlet both on Broadway and in Hollywood; but he never could commit himself to any of them, and he never married.

Ira, on the other hand, was short and dumpy, and he stayed married to the same woman his whole life.

But despite their differences, they had one thing in common: They both agreed that George was a genius.

(Ira was no slouch himself. It's hard to beat lyrics like "Loving in your arms is so delectable, dear/I'm afraid it isn't quite respectable, dear.")

Anyway, they were both talented amateur artists. And they painted their self-portraits showing themselves in the identical pose: Standing at the easel, painting the picture.

With one difference: George painted himself dressed in top hat, white tie and tails. Ira painted himself in his underwear.

...

At parties, you could always find George in the center of the room, playing his own music on the piano while everyone admired him. Ira preferred to sit in a corner, beaming lovingly on his adored brother.

Then George died suddenly and unexpectedly from what turned out to be a brain tumor. Ira was devastated. A few days later, he found a piece of music on George's piano — the last tune George ever wrote. Ira penned some lyrics for it. In a few simple words, he said goodbye:

It's very clear, our love is here to stay.

Not for a year, but ever and a day.

The Rockies may tumble, Gibraltar may crumble.

They're only made of clay.

But our love is here to stay.

Martin Snapp's column appears every Thursday in the Voice. Write Martin c/o Hills Newspapers, 2936 Domingo Ave., Berkeley 94705, phone him at (510) 273-9039, or e-mail him at

Shann@RMIG.org or Catman1@creative.net

Friedman wins approval of 3; Bartke abstain

EL CERRITO — Mark Friedman will fill the City Council seat left vacant by the unexpected resignation of Mac Ritz last month. Three of four council members opted for a "fresh" new face when choosing among the seven applicants, though they took two hours Monday night to come to the decision. Councilmember Jane Bartke abstained from the deciding vote.

Ritz's unexpired term has almost seven months remaining; at the November election, three seats will be open to new candidates, including Friedman, if he chooses to run for a regular term.

Friedman may be less publicly known in El Cerrito than some of the other candidates for the position. A resident for 7.5 years, he has not served on any official city committees or commissions. He does, however, have wide skills and experience in a variety of issues facing El Cerrito in the months to come, including budget planning, labor contracts and redevelopment projects.

Those skills were among the qualities that attracted Mayor Norma Jellison, Mayor Pro Tem Norman La Force and Councilmember Gina Brusatori to Friedman as the right choice for the position. Councilmember

Bartke, however, was concerned that Friedman has obtained his experience in Alameda County rather than in Contra Costa County.

When Bartke first listed the candidates she had considered as her top three choices among the seven applicants, Friedman's name was included. At that point, the lack of Contra Costa County connections was her only stated objection. By the end of the meeting, Bartke would not support Friedman as the correct choice and instead strongly advocated for former City Councilmember Chuck Lewis as the best person to be a "caretaker" of the city for the seven months remaining of Ritz's term, though Lewis had not been among her top three choices. (She said he had always been fourth on her list.)

When the choices were obviously narrowing down to Friedman and Lewis, Bartke several times raised an incident that made her question Friedman's ability to "produce" in El Cerrito.

Friedman is El Cerrito's representative to the Contra Costa Transportation Partnership Advisory Board. Because of that, Bartke was very concerned that he did not avail himself of an opportunity to "hear (the

council's) viewpoints" on an important transportation issue, the proposed increase in payable to the West Contra Costa Transitory Committee. Bartke had called for a session on that issue March 17, and attended. The meeting was public item on the council's regular agenda.

Friedman was appointed to the advisory at the council's previous meeting on Tuesday that he was interviewed for home after the interview.

He was not present when his name or when the upcoming study session. He also said that, when he received, informing him that he had been appointed to the study session scheduled meeting.

During the personal candidate interview Bartke did not ask Friedman why he had the session.

In the end, Bartke would not support Friedman. She implied that she had objections and said she would abstain

Council

Continued from front page

my skills and experience to my home community. This is a vital time for the future of our city, and I want to help shape that future as a city council member."

Candidates were asked to list the two or three things they'd most like to accomplish as a member of the El Cerrito City Council. Friedman said first he would like to "help to shepherd the redevelopment process with an emphasis on El Cerrito Plaza, (the) Del Norte BART Station Area project, and the Del Norte Marketplace.

"These projects will shape the future of our community for decades," he said. Thus, he wants to see them "implemented in a timely, successful, and publicly understood and supported manner."

Friedman has a strong interest in "sustainable development," which he defines as development that will have "no negative impact or minimal negative impact on the environment" and will function "in harmony

with the surrounding neighborhood and community." He is a board member of the Citizen's Network for Sustainable Development, a national organization.

Because of that interest, he said, he places high priority on "integrating public transit, urban creek restoration, appropriate housing, and people-oriented development." He also stated his dislike for "the homogenization and chain store sameness of much commercial development," while admitting that "this type of retail has the upper hand in our economy."

He pledged himself to reaching out to the members of the community in an attempt to "incorporate diverse opinions into the decision-making process."

Friedman also shared his personal opinion of the City Council/Agency Board's commitment to sustainable development.

"The Agency Board is faced with the challenge of reshaping our city's commercial future and in maximizing sales tax revenue, which is the primary revenue

source we can expand. I feel that the best way to incorporate principles of sustainability they perceive them to be practical."

"I think the principles of sustainability are being developed in terms of their generation. We in El Cerrito have a great opportunity to do that."

Friedman characterized the City Council's "pioneer" of sustainable development, believes, however, that "in the heat of particularity where there's an impasse, it's easy to revert to business as usual."

For his part, Friedman hopes to "implement principles of sustainability where they are practical even when they appear to present insurmountable challenges."

As a second priority, Friedman hopes to "develop methods for ensuring the financial stability of city government."

Mire

Continued from front page

emerge victorious.

The group is suing over an action taken by the council in January to waive the "drop dead date" of Feb. 1, 1997 in the development agreement approved by city voters as part of Measure F. According to CRG President David Arkin, while the group feels good about their chances of winning their first lawsuit, which is currently on appeal, they feel even better about the second.

"I think we have a very strong case here," says CRG attorney Bob Outis, who has provided the legal fuel, "without payment," for CRG's anti-cardroom machine.

Others, however, do not feel better about anything.

"I don't see any end to these lawsuits," says Mayor Bob Good, who cast the sole no vote against the original proposal but has since gone along with the mandate given by voters.

According to Outis, that mandate was obtained illegally, and the mayor, in foreseeing no end to the litigation, could be correct: "If they keep violating the law," Outis says, "I suppose it's likely we'll will."

Increasingly complex issues

As the months have dragged on since Measure F was first approved, the complexity of the issue has grown exponentially. In the first lawsuit, for example, which was filed in 1995, CRG challenges, among other things, the very question voters answered nearly two-and-a-half years ago.

Voters not only approved a cardroom, but did so, according to the language of the ballot measure, "in order to provide revenue for the City of Albany, create jobs, provide for an Albany Bay Trail, and allow Albany waterfront access." A violation of the law, claims CRG, "the purpose of which is to entice the electorate to vote in favor of (the cardroom)." Not so, claims the city, leaving yet another matter for the courts to decide.

In more recent months, the new question of whether the council had a right to waive a portion of a voter-approved development agreement has been raised, with CRG and the City of Berkeley falling on one side,

and Ladbrooke and Albany on the other. A majority of council members are now cardroom opponents, yet they voted 4-1 to waive the "drop dead date."

A former CRG board member (Jon Ely) is now on the council, and says he will most likely participate in closed sessions regarding the second lawsuit (Ladbrooke said they would object to him sitting in on closed sessions regarding the first suit, but has not dealt with the matter of the second, says one of the company's attorneys, Amy Forbes).

In a brief submitted to the appeal court, the city claimed that if the "meritless" CRG litigation which has delayed the project was not resolved by Dec. 31, 1996, that lack of action "may kill the development agreement which voters approved." Now, faced with a second lawsuit, the city will have to argue a somewhat opposite position: that the lack of action did not kill the project, and the cardroom is still on track.

Legal quagmire

The above are but a small sample of the issues, raised in hefty batches of legal briefs, surrounding what once, in theory, presented itself as a simple yes or no question. CRG has asserted the project should have undergone environmental review before being placed on the ballot, and that city voters were not so well-informed when they split nearly down the middle when faced with Measure F.

"What has been at the core of this whole process is money and a revenue-hungry city administration," Arkin says. "We're more upset about the process than the project. This case is not about stopping the expansion of gambling, although there is ample concern for that. I really strongly feel that this process is furthering a dangerous loophole in the (California Environmental Quality Act)."

City Attorney Robert Zweber puts a somewhat different spin on the situation. In addition to upholding his previous legal assertions, all of which, of course, lead to the conclusion that CRG's two lawsuits are without merit, he points to another consequence of the long-bela cardroom. "This lawsuit has cost the taxpayers over four million dollars," Zweber says, pointing to revenue which the city would have gained had no lawsuit been filed and had the project been

applied for and approved.

"That assumes what CRG has been along," says Outis in response. "That's not the project is a foregone conclusion."

While the issue has, of course, opened the community and spawned endless rounds of sparring, it has also put a number of people in positions.

Good, for example, found the cardroom voted against placing on the ballot in 1994. The council in his very first meeting, Councilmember Peggy Thomsen, a cardroom, also voted in favor of extending a project.

"It was a tough position to be put in," says Thomsen, who, at her second meeting of the council, voted to extend the agreement, putting the city in the position of facing a potential "It was a really, really hard thing to do."

The litigation has not, however, changed minds among those who first promoted it at least not in any drastic fashion.

"If I had to do all over again, I wish I had been enough time to really give people the information they felt they didn't have," says Councilmember Elizabeth Baker. "I still feel this was a bad proposal. To me, it just seems a tremendous amount of energy (the litigation) have been better utilized for the good of the city."

"It's a pity that we live in a system where we seem to only be able to work with each other in litigation," says Michael Feiner, a cardroom who was on the Fiscal Task Force back then they're accomplishing really is delay."

CRG members, of course, do not agree with the above, they say confidence has grown in the second lawsuit, which, like the first, will in proposed cardroom if successful. And all have voiced confidence in the first suit anticipated, will be decided this summer.

If the city wins the appeal of the first suit, has the second, and an appeal in that case as well, then, Albany residents on both sides of the issue will have done for nearly two-and-a-half years.

Library

Continued from front page

"We reach people better than most places," she said.

Part of the credit for that effectiveness goes to efficiency and expertise, according to the study conducted and the general opinion of most of the players.

"We definitely feel good about our staff's performance," said West, who is El Cerrito's official representative to the county's Library Commission.

As part of the second charge to the subregional boards, however, the supervisors authorized "a series of performance contracts to be drawn up that will state what return on investment is expected from each of the branches," said Stark, who is a board member of the Friends of the El Cerrito Library. "An outside auditor will do the evaluations."

Should service levels not balance out with costs, subregional boards would ultimately have the ability to authorize a municipality's withdrawal from the system.

The original commissioned study did not find economies that could be accomplished by making any changes in staffing.

"By any objective measure you care to employ, we have an incredibly efficient system," Stark said. "We have an amazingly efficient and professional staff."

As an example, he pointed to the number of daily over-the-counter book checkouts throughout the system. "We have 50 percent greater productivity in that area than Alameda County has," he said.

According to Hildebrand, the comparisons were made based on full-time equivalent employees.

"It shows we are incredibly productive," she said.

"We check out more materials per staff member than just about any other library in the state."

(The number of checkouts more than doubles the state and national average.)

She also said the number of reference questions per reference librarian is higher than both the state and national average.

Hildebrand said the library staff does not object to the inclusion of performance standards in the resolution. She said the staff has nothing to hide and is interested in "expanding trust in the community." The performance contracts are for the system, not the individual employees and are similar to many other contract evaluations made in city government, she noted. "We have been proven to be very efficiently run; we want to continue to run efficiently," she said. "This is our agreement to do that."

If a jurisdiction believes it can deliver the same service for 10 percent less cost, can convince the auditor of that fact, and cannot come to some kind of "meet and confer" resolution on the cost, the supervisors' resolution does allow that jurisdiction to withdraw from the system, taking its Return to Source monies with it.

One year notice must be given, however, and the entire subregional board must vote its approval. (Stipulations are also made as to how costs can be reduced; volunteers may not be substituted for professional staff members, for example.)

In a third decision Tuesday, the supervisors agreed that the City of Concord can build its own library, with an initial \$1.5 million grant from the county's general fund and an ongoing \$170,000 per year. Concord has

criticized the system, saying it was not from the system what it puts in.

"They've been pouring more money in than getting out," said West. "This has been point with them for a long, long time."

Others have said that Concord residents are less extensive use of branches that are closer to other cities but are closer to them in proximity.

Supervisor Joe Canciamilla voted against the resolution because of the Concord decision. Although Hildebrand, Canciamilla felt some sort of action by Concord should be written into the resolution. Stark continues to hope that the county's shrinking general fund monies for our services and pursue another option to satisfy the needs of the community.

In a fourth decision, the supervisors agreed that there will be a new countywide ballot measure to increase library funding and that the measure will be passed. If the assessment passes in one region, it can still go into effect there, with branches reaping its benefits.

The supervisors also asked cities to place their own library funding measures on the ballot. The timing for the ballot measure is not set, though 1998 is being discussed.

"We had to be so rushed in our planning and we didn't quite make it," said Hildebrand. "But we absolutely can't afford to fail again. That goes into a good campaign."

"Think what the difference would be in a city in the county giving its official endorsement," she went on to say. "We need to have leaders and officials working with us."

REAL ESTATE

April 17, 1997 HILLS PUBLICATIONS Page 13

Trust, planning bring results

You ever notice how life is? You do some things in one and it works out well for you. You do the in another case and it just doesn't work out as well.

Company recommends getting a handle on remodeling costs as much as possible—while the design is underway. A client with the design of what a dream will make an informed decision whether or not to fall in love with the plans.

A contractor involved as early as part of the team you can help get your project built. We had done a remodel for a friend and so our name was passed along for consideration.

After an initial interview to become get to know each other and a thorough check of our references, we were hired to do a preliminary proposal for the project. After an on-site visit with critical subcontractors, I produced the proposal on the basis of the very well developed preliminary plans.

As has happened so often, the total cost generated for the project exceeded the client's budget. Here is where it gets interesting.

What did she do? Give up? No. A combination of factors gave the three of us (the client, architect and contractor) the ability to work together to finish the project. Here are two:

• Trust among all the participants

The first client engaged the help of a noted local architect known for attention to detail. We had the opportunity to look at the plans just before they were ready to be submitted to the building department.

Careful planning made it possible to reduce the contingency money the clients needed to have "just in case" from 10 percent of the proposed total to 5 percent or less. Getting clear about the project's exact needs was supposed to solve as opposed to responding only to what was on the plans made this happen.

Now let's look at the interaction with a second client. We were recommended to this client by an architect who is very interested in having a builder provide cost analysis early in the planning process. The architect recommended more than one contractor for the client to interview and consider. We were chosen to prepare a preliminary proposal.

Again, when the proposal was completed, the preliminary idea of cost was greater than what the client wanted to spend. So what was

FROM
THE
GROUND
UP
PAUL WINANS

the client's response?

Find another contractor to price the project. Sounds reasonable, right? Except that is not what the process that had been started was about.

Remember the first client? We worked together to make the project buildable. In that case trust was in place to the degree that allowed the client to work with what we presented to her even though it was not what she wanted to hear. Through an ongoing dialogue that continued while the project was underway the work was completed and the client felt very well served.

The second client's project was never built. He could not find someone to do the work within his budget and decided to do no work at all. My sense is that he felt very disappointed.

A year ago, the average 15-year fixed rate mortgages, a popular option in the refinancing market, was 7.67 percent, up 3 basis points from last week's average of 7.70 percent.

This week's average for 15-year fixed rate mortgages, a popular option in the refinancing market, was 7.67 percent, up 3 basis points from last week's average of 7.70 percent.

A year ago, the average 15-year interest rate was 7.56 percent.

See WINANS on page 14

Interest rates mixed as market stabilizes

On April 10 the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation's (Freddie Mac) Primary Mortgage Market Survey showed that the nationwide average for the 30-year fixed rate mortgage for the week fell 3 basis points to 8.15 percent from last week's average of 8.18 percent.

In the second week of April 1996, this bellwether rate stood at 8.05 percent.

The average start rate for the one-year Treasury-indexed adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) rose 11 basis points from last week's average of 5.80 percent to 5.91 percent.

A year ago, the national average for the one-year ARM start rate was 5.80 percent.

This week's average for 15-year fixed rate mortgages, a popular option in the refinancing market, was 7.67 percent, up 3 basis points from last week's average of 7.70 percent.

A year ago, the average 15-year interest rate was 7.56 percent.

"Long-term interest rates seem to have settled down since the Federal Reserve raised short-term rates a few weeks ago," said Freddie Mac Chief Economist Robert Van Order.

"We probably won't see much movement in these figures until the release of the next employment figures or the Consumer Price Index."

This year Freddie Mac celebrates the 26th consecutive year of the Primary Mortgage Market Survey, having tracked mortgage interest rates since 1971.

Freddie Mac is a stockholder-owned corporation chartered by Congress in 1970 to create a continuous flow of funds to mortgage lenders. The organization supplies lenders with the money to make mortgages and then packages these mortgages into marketable securities.

In this way Freddie Mac sustains a stable mortgage credit system and reduces the mortgage rates

See RATES on page 14

COLDWELL BANKER CELEBRATION

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ALBANY

5 TAYLOR.....\$359,000
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1 PIERCE STREET.....\$359,000
Sweet home with fabulous views. 2BR with extra hobby room. Updated kitchen, French doors, wood floors. **Diane Verducci** 486-1495

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5 HILLDALE, BERKELEY HILLS.....\$459,000
Stunning contemporary. 3-bridge views, spacious rooms and high ceilings. 4BR/3BA, elegant living room, sunny kitchen with doors to garden, master suite with private deck. **Cheryl Cahn** 486-1495

12 MILVIA, BERKELEY.....\$389,000
Stunning craftsman bungalow is conveniently located near Monterey Mkt & the Gourmet Ghetto. 2BA, family rm. **Adrienne Broché** 339-1174

14 EUNICE, NORTH BERKELEY.....\$285,000
JUST LISTED! Ideal location. Walk to shops, restaurants and campus. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, move-in ready. **Rita Zwerdling** 486-1495

16-33 CALIFORNIA, NORTH BERKELEY.....\$249,000
Recently remodeled. Two 1BR/1BA units in great location. Walk to Gourmet Ghetto, BART and BART. **Jerry Long** 486-1495

18 KEELER, NORTH BERKELEY.....\$209,000
JUST LISTED! Sweet and sunny 2 bedroom cottage with view. Large master with skylight, utility room and deck. **Holly Rose** 486-1495

OAKLAND

11 WOOD DR, MONTCLAIR.....\$610,000
Great indoor-outdoor living in park-like setting. 4BR/3BA, formal dining, separate breakfast room, rec room & library. **Ruby Ng** 339-1174

15 BROADWAY TER, UPPER ROCKRIDGE.....\$469,000
Spectacular views. Great separation of space. Mt. Tam, Angel Island, SF views are sublime. **Joan Alford** 339-1174

OAKLAND



854 LONGRIDGE, CROCKER HGLDS.....\$455,000
Traditional charm. Beautifully restored 3+BR, 3+BA, gourmet kitchen, master bedroom suite, great architectural detail. **Dian Hymer** 339-1174

64 STARVIEW DR, HILLER HGLDS.....\$349,000
Spacious home situated on a circular drive. Bright and airy, extra storage. Views of SF, bay and bridges from master. **Ollie Hammerel** 339-1174

6185 WESTOVER, MONTCLAIR.....\$315,000
Piedmont Pines contemporary. Elegant home in wooded canyon setting. Stylish split-level with 4BR, 3BA, raised formal dining, broad picture windows and decks. **Jeanne McHugh** 486-1495

6286 COLBY, ROCKRIDGE.....\$257,000
Vintage bungalow, c. 1910. 2+BR, formal dining and deep park-like yard. **Candace Hyde-Wang** 486-1495

724 CALMAR, CROCKER HGLDS.....\$255,000
What curb appeal! Inviting country colonial with special ambience. Wonderful details of the craftspeople of 1918's. Peaceful outlook of the East Bay hills. A must see! 2BR, 1BA, plus room with separate entrance. Crocker School. **Ruby Ng** 339-1174

1908 CLEMENS, OAKMORE.....\$239,500
Enjoy the ambience from this private garden retreat! Bay views from garden and living room... a real plus. 2 bedroom, 1 bath Mediterranean style home. Come and recharge from the hectic pace of today's living! **Karen Lum** 339-1174

447 43RD, TEMESCAL.....\$168,000
Move right in to this charming 2BR, 1BA bungalow. Established neighborhood, easy San Francisco commute. Great value! **The Longs** 486-1495

2618 55TH, MAXWELL PARK.....\$159,500
This home is a pleasing blend of original charm and tasteful updating. So rarely found at this price. **Kevin McMullen** 339-1174

BY APPOINTMENT



887 TRESTLE GLEN, TRESTLE GLEN.....\$369,000
Stately English Tudor. Wonderful floor plan, regal living room, formal dining, light-filled family rm/office. Lush gardens. **Adrienne Broché** 339-1174

CLAREMONT PINES.....\$895,000
Outstanding new construction by Mark Becker. View! Level-in. Will be finished in May. 4BR/2.5BA. Mediterranean style. **James Duffy** 339-1174

ELEGANCE, GLAMOUR IN EL CERRITO HILLS.....\$889,000
JUST LISTED! Bay & canyon views from this custom built 5BR/4BA + spacious downstairs in-law. Constructed with top quality from gourmet kit to terrazzo tile & designer lighting. Lovely deck, deck & lg back yard. **486-1495**

OAKLAND HILLS / SKYLINE.....\$785,000
Unique and beautiful custom built home. A dramatic home with large square footage. Fabulous view. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, pool, sauna, game room, loft, wine room & much more. **Don Coelho** 339-1174

GORGEOUS BAY VIEWS FROM EL CERRITO HILLS.....\$595,000
8 years new! Custom 4 bedroom, 3 bath home on 1/2 acre lot. Includes family room, formal dining plus gourmet kitchen with sunny breakfast room. Truly remarkable views of the bay! **486-1495**

BERKELEY CAPE COD TRADITIONAL.....\$285,000
JUST LISTED! North Berkeley Gourmet Ghetto location. Freshly painted inside and out. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 bath home with formal dining room, and large living room. **486-1495**

UPPER ROCKRIDGE.....\$278,500
Wonderful 2BR/1BA with updated kitchen, family room, oak floors, fireplace, art studio 2-car garage. Next to Hillcrest School. **James Duffy** 339-1174

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Getting rid of waste

This weekend may be the time to clean out the garage or get rid of that unsightly pile in the back yard or the back corner of the house.

Perhaps you've been putting off the task because of "things" lying around you just don't know what to do with: the rest of that varnish from when you finally got around to finishing that table, the oil from the last time you decided to save money and change the oil in the car yourself and or the half a can of smelly insecticide that worked so well on those invading ants

(it's no wonder they left!)

If there were a way to quickly and conveniently rid your household of these unwanted items, you'd certainly want to know about it.

Well, Alameda County Household and Hazardous Waste may be your answer.

You can rest assured knowing that 80-85 percent of the waste collected at their facilities is either recycled or reused.

Call the Alameda County Household and Hazardous Waste at (800) 606-6606.

Consider how differently these two situations were resolved. It is always hard to plan and do a remodeling project. It is easier if you do the following:

- Choose people who you can trust to help you through this difficult endeavor;

- Commit early to a well-thought-out planning process that includes cost information;

- If the preliminary idea of costs for the project comes in higher than expected, don't be surprised.

- Work with the people on your team to make the project fit your budget and solve the problems with your house at the same time.

Good luck.

Paul Winans, CR, is co-owner of Winans Construction, Inc., an Oakland-based general contracting firm founded in 1978. He can be reached at 653-7288.

Winans...

Continued from page 13

pointed and could not connect with someone with more experience than he had to guide him.

I am still sad that we could not help the second client realize his dream. I feel like I did not do a good enough job helping him understand how much an experienced builder could help him.

But, to this day, the first client thinks her decision to work with a company she trusted to make her project buildable was one of the best decisions she ever made.

I really think she could see the importance of verifying competence and developing trust because of the unfortunate experiences she had trying to contract with painters and roofers on her own in the past.

Rates...

Continued from page 13

paid by home buyers. Over the years, Freddie Mac has opened the doors for one in six home buyers in America.

On March 31 the Federal Home Loan Bank Board pegged the 11th

District Cost of Funds Index (COFI) for April payments at 4.723 percent, down 10 basis points from the 4.821 percent that was in effect for March payments.

The COFI is the index widely used by the savings and loan industry for its adjustable rate mortgages.

REAL ESTATE EDITOR 339-4047

RITCHIEY REAL ESTATE

&

**NEW LISTING
OPEN SUNDAY 4/23 2-5 PM
1912 CARQUINEZ, RICHMOND VIEW
ASKING \$154,000**

Sunny, level-in 2 bedroom just north of Barrett and the El Cerrito line: new kitchen, new bath, seismic, and some upgraded systems. Lovely view of Mt. Tamalpais from the bedrooms and room for gardening. Great starter or retirement nest.

NEW LISTING

A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY

Here you can escape the hubbub of this busy world a few minutes off I-80 and retreat to the seclusion and serenity of your own Eden. Offered by the original owners who planted 10,000 trees, this 4,875 sq. ft., 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath timeless contemporary is sited on 55+/- acres and is bordered on three sides by Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. The pool, barn, orchards, hiking trails and wildlife are some of the many amenities offered by this extraordinary property located in the hills overlooking El Sobrante Valley. This is a dream come true for serious stewards of the land. Asking price is \$1,200,000.

NEW LISTING

GREAT UC STUDENT CONDO

You can't get much closer to UC than this contemporary complex at Dwight Way and Dana in the South Campus area. This 2 story, 2 bedroom, 2 bath unit has a fireplace, private deck, and sunny spaces for serious studying. Offered at \$210,000.

GLORIOUS RENOVATION

This charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath view Tudor on Arlington in Berkeley has been superbly remodeled from the roof to the foundation: dazzling gourmet kitchen, new wiring, new windows, and so much more. The original charm has been preserved: the vaulted, beamed ceilings, lovely tile work, 2 fireplaces, and gardens will warm your heart. \$389,500.

HOME & INCOME

Located on tree-lined Hearst Street near North Berkeley BART, this 3 bedroom house in front and full-sized 1 bedroom house in the rear are on a lot of over 7,200 square feet. This property offers lots of possibilities. Asking \$255,000.

UNIQUE INVESTMENT

There's a good tenant in the lower office suite at \$740. per month and the sunny, upper office suite is available for an owner-user or new tenant PLUS a 3 bedroom rental house next door on one huge lot. You could walk to work in your slippers, just collect rents, or explore a lot split and sell the house. An investment with upside. \$275,000.

INVESTMENTS

527-3060



DON DUNNING, CRB, CRS

WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW CAN HURT YOU

Part one of a two-part series

between 1989 and 1993, however, paid prices that, even today, translate to negative or zero equity.

It is preferable to buy at the beginning of the upturn. (See item above). The later into the hot market you buy, the greater your resale risk if the market slows.

Get pre-approved with a local lender. Pre-approved means your funds, debts, employment and credit history will be thoroughly researched and documented. The only remaining step will be the lender's appraisal of the property once you have an accepted contract. This makes you a strong, serious buyer and will give the seller and his listing agent more confidence in your ability to perform and close the escrow.

As a buyer, think ahead to the time you might be selling. Despite fantasies of staying in your new home forever, circumstances unexpectedly change and you may need to sell sooner than you anticipated.

Prices rise quickly and decrease slowly. The last market frenzy occurred from 1987 through 1989. Most buyers who purchased in 1987 and 1988 did fine. A significant number of those who bought

Use a local agent. A small percentage of buyers ignore this admonition, often to their detriment. Local agents know the territory and can provide in-depth information about neighborhoods, prices, schools, shopping, lenders, inspectors, tradespeople, and issues of concern in the specific area.

With homes selling quickly, it is difficult enough for local agents to preview new listings on a daily basis; for out-of-area Realtors, it is almost impossible. You will probably never even hear about some properties until it is too late. This was exactly the lament of a young couple who loved one of my recent listings. Working with an out-of-area agent, they only discovered it on their own after my "sold" sign went up.

Local agents hear about new properties coming on the market from their networking with other local agents. Had this couple been working with a local Realtor, they would have had a better chance of knowing about it in time.

Thorough home inspections are essential. If there is time, some agents will counsel their buyers to have a home inspection completed prior to making an offer when there is the possibility of multiple offers.

The buyer can then write a contract with no inspection contingency,

giving him an edge over competing offers which have included such a clause.

It is critical, nonetheless, to be careful not to get so caught up in the auction atmosphere that you discount the seriousness—spell that expense—of specific problems. Likewise, buying "As Is" should be done with caution.

One of the barriers to getting an inspection from a competent inspec-

tor is that the real estate agent is up one to two levels above the buyer. This could lead to a conflict of interest if the agent asks questions about the buyer's background, his financial situation, and his insurance coverage.

Understand pre-approval reports. Accept a pest control report. This was ordered by the buyer, but it was no more than the agent's opinion. Be aware of the difference between "Section One" and "Section Two" items in a report. Section Two items are innocuous and can cost the buyer nothing. Accept responsibility for understanding the differences.

Act decisively, but criminally. Learn neighborhoods of to open houses and neighborhoods. The more you better decisions you make. When you find a great fast-moving locale, write an offer that will generally and allow others to buy and bid.

How to handle multiple offers. When the market is slow, it is now, agents often attract more than one offer. The will then suggest offers not be heard broker's tour and find. If this is the case, choice but to play by rules and wait until day to present your offer.

See DUNNING

MARVIN GARDE REAL ESTATE



2005 TAPSCOT, EL CERRITO CUSTOM BUILT EXECUTIVE HOME

Enjoy outstanding quality and condition in this original owner. Located in the El Cerrito hills, walking distance to BART and the bay and bridge views. This exceptional property has 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 large family rooms and much, much more. MARY GRAY/MELISSA EIZENBERG 527-9111, 466-5844, 466-5874

OUTSTANDING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY
Extremely well maintained four unit complex in very desirable Richmond Annex location, close to all services. Two 2-bedroom and two 1 bedroom units with lucrative monthly income and tenant history. MARY GRAY 527-9111, 466-5843

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE VIEW

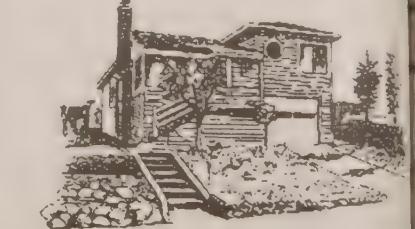
Wonderful bay view! New roof, interior paint, refinished hardwood floors, new fence and pest control cleared. Extra rooms and basement for expansion or workshop. HERMAN SUN 527-9111, 235-1669

SPACIOUS HOME WITH IN-LAW UNIT

Bright & sunny living space, updated kitchen, large level bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2 fireplaces, hardwood floors AND a price! ROSITA THORNTON 527-9111, 273-9501

GOOD BUY!

Affordable 1 bedroom condo in secure, well maintained building in excellent Adams Point location. Ready to move-in. HERMAN SUN 527-9111, 235-1669



ADORABLE VIEW HOME

Split-level home with a great view of the bay and San Francisco. 2 bedrooms, plus unfinished potential 3rd bedroom. Formal dining room. Peaceful cul-de-sac. DIANE MINTZ 527-1400, 527-2700

GRACIOUS BAY VIEW HOME

Comfortable 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with family room, 2 car garage, workshop. OPEN SUNDAY, 2-4:30, 416 KENTUCKY, BERKELEY. ANN ARRIOLA PLANT 287-8761, 527-2700

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Remodeled 1 bedroom cottage beside Strawberry Creek with detached artist studio. OPEN SUNDAY, 2-4, 1435 ALLSTON, BERKELEY. BRUCE SIMON 273-9593, 527-2700

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BAY VIEW DUPLEX / INCOME PROPERTY \$130,000
Rare opportunity for a property you can comfortably live in and also produce excellent income. "As Is" sale. Over 2,200 sq. ft., two 2-car garages! Lot to 7,350 sq. ft., large owners unit, ample other unit. #5553 Gen Stern 510-234-7808

RICHMOND VIEW

ANOTHER RENOVATION! \$179,900
3BR, 2.5BA, new roof, new paint, new carpet, BANK OWNED! Family rm, 1-car gar, almost 1800 sq. ft. #W39098 Jack Burns Jr. 707-864-8870

CASLE FOR SALE

..... \$187,000
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..... \$269,950
4BR, 3BA, over 2,500 sq. ft., 2-car detached garage, beautiful hardwood, modern kitchen, formal dining room, fireplace, bonus room and basement. #W39611 Carolyn Dopp 510-223-6700

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BAY VIEW DUPLEX / INCOME PROPERTY \$130,000
Rare opportunity for a property you can comfortably live in and also produce excellent income. "As Is" sale. Over 2,200 sq. ft., two 2-car garages! Lot to 7,350 sq. ft., large owners unit, ample other unit. #5553 Gen Stern 510-234-7808

INVESTMENTS

HOME & INCOME \$255,000
Located on tree-lined Hearst Street near North Berkeley BART, this 3 bedroom house in front and full-sized 1 bedroom house in the rear are on a lot of over 7,200 square feet. This property offers lots of possibilities. Asking \$255,000.

UNIQUE INVESTMENT

..... \$275,000
There's a good tenant in the lower office suite at \$740. per month and the sunny, upper office suite is available for an owner-user or new tenant PLUS a 3 bedroom rental house next door on one huge lot. You could walk to work in your slippers, just collect rents, or explore a lot split and sell the house. An investment with upside. \$275,000.

New listings can be sweetly satisfying

190 in a series of true
ces in real estate.

anything in this business
uch fun as a new listing. We
ching the owners get the
ady. We like looking at
uses as they come on the
comparing them with "our
e enjoy our excitement
e approaches to open house
irst time—it's like getting
opening night of a stage
.

The assessor's records show that the Sweet Street house has three bedrooms and two baths. It was built in 1910, contains 1600 square feet and the lot is .16 acre. The property was last sold in 1982 for \$185,000.

This is all good news. The house on Sweet Street is not enormous but it is generously sized. The lot is not huge but not small either. It is one of the older houses on that block, hopefully with its original detailing still intact. And, unless something is very wrong, the owner is not going to lose money when it sells, as he might if he had bought more recently for more money. We like that.

The roof can't be very old, the landscaping is attractive, there is a deep front porch, and the trim—painted an appealing blue-gray—is in good shape. The original front door looks solid and wider than most.

We shake hands with the owner and give him our cards. He shows us around and we take notes: hardwood floors; fine Craftsman-style fireplace; painted built-ins; wood

casement windows; original doors and picture moldings.

The kitchen has an old gas chrome-top stove. Lots of people like them, including us. There is no dishwasher but that's fine. There is room for a table in the kitchen and windows that could be replaced with French doors opening to the yard.

Good, good. No aluminum windows, no wrong-color Formica, no '60s orange shag carpeting. The bedrooms are fine and, although one is very small, all have good closets.

We're already thinking the price might be \$300,000.

The yard is sunny and protected from the eyes of the neighbors and there is a nice maple tree. One bathroom has recently been painted attractively; the other one looks a little dreary, could stand some work.

There is unfortunate, outdated orange and white-flowered wallpaper in the hallway.

The whole house is neat and clean but it feels crowded with furniture. The basement is very full and it's hard to see the floor or walls.

The furnace is old and there is asbestos on the ducts. No earthquake retrofit has been done but the foundation is concrete, visible to us all the way around the outside of the house, and we don't see any cracks.

The electrical system is still on

fuses. The fireplace has not been used in many years but we can see a rain cap on top of the chimney.

The owner of Sweet Street has been offered a job in a town about 100 miles north. If possible, he'd like to be done with the sale of the house in three months.

"I'm sure I'm going to need to do some work before I sell. I'd like your advice on what would be best," the owner says. He'd also like to know, of course, what the house will sell for.

"We'd like to go away and think before we answer your questions," we tell him. "We'll look at comparable sales, talk about what you might do to get the best price, and get back to you."

We're off and running! We talk and think and research, then meet with the seller again. We've made a list of work we think he would do well to complete. We go over the items individually and talk about the pros and cons and probable costs.

We order termite and fireplace reports and work out a timetable. We provide the names of an electrician, also furnace and cleaning people.

We show the owner on paper how we came to the conclusion that the house will likely sell for \$325,000, and what he will net in cash at that price. We will hone our



TARPOLL & TALBERT

pricing as he clears out the house and prepares it for market.

Over the next few weeks, we visit a number of times. We are enjoying seeing the work progress. We take the seller the required disclosures to complete. We're also finding the right words for our newspaper ads, have had a floor plan and a sketch made of the exterior and are working on our property flyer.

Finally there comes the satisfying day when all is done and ready—the day we first show the house. Mr. Sweet Street did his job; we did ours. We are proud and pleased to be standing in the living room as the first agents come in the door.

"What a nice listing," one says. "Can I use the phone to call my buyer?"

Anet Tarpoff and Pat Talbert are licensed real estate agents and area specialists who also offer hourly real estate consulting and coaching. They can be reached at 653-2505.

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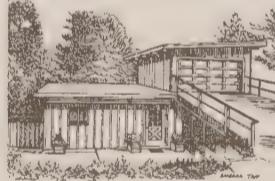
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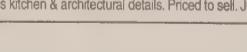
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7130 HOMEWOOD. Sunny and private in Montclair 2 bedroom home \$275,000
with garage, huge deck and yard. Charm. Judy Farrell ext. 227



ROCKRIDGE VALUE. Move right in! Charming upgraded craftsman. 3BD/2BA \$279,000
near BART. Fabulous kitchen & architectural details. Priced to sell. Judy Farrell ext. 227



NEW CONDO LISTING! Cambridge house at 245 Perkins. Top floor 1BD unit \$93,000
Vaulted ceilings, frpl, hills view, great association. Truly a must see! Frank Hennefer 654-6461

MUST SELL! 2 bedroom value in Adams Point in smaller building with secure parking, balcony. Judy Farrell ext. 227

2 NEW MONTCLARION LISTINGS. Contiguous infill properties. \$130,000

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SOPHISTICATED BUYERS MONTCLARION OPPORTUNITY. Panoramic view, yet \$125,000

just min.'s from downtown, includes 3 lots! Needs utilities. Peter & Ellen Nicopoulos 339-9780

GRAND LAKE TRIPLEX. Lovely 4BD/2BA traditional home plus two one bed \$429,000

townhouse units. Anne Bruff 531-7006, x 283

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What is my home worth?

Q: How do I determine the market value of my house in this market? What is the best pricing strategy to obtain the best possible sale? E.C., Berkeley.

With very few notable exceptions in our society, when we want to buy something, we ask the price. If we want it, we buy it. If not, we don't. The asking price is the selling price. End of story.

It has always struck me as curious that the notable exceptions to the "fixed price" rule are at opposite ends of the financial spectrum. At the low end, at the Sunday garage sales and flea markets, we let loose our playful side and offer 50 cents for the \$2 ceramic pig. Our hearts may even beat a bit faster when we do, and often the process is worth more in the way of entertainment than the item itself.

Sometimes we are successful, and we pride ourselves at snatching a bargain. Sometimes not. Either way, we go on with our lives. At the other end of the spectrum are the big ticket items: cars and houses. There is an asking price, and a selling price, and though they may occasionally converge, they are two separate items, and everybody knows it.

Somewhat the "fun" element diminishes when we are talking about thousands or even tens of thousands of dollars. And if the player's heart beats faster, it may be due to stress rather than enjoyment. This is heavy

stuff.

A few car makers and dealers recently figured out that not everyone has a grand time trying to figure out the relationship between asking and selling price. It dawned on them that some folks would prefer driving their old buggies into oblivion than face a negotiating process with a smiling car dealer. So they changed.

We are actually beginning to see the day when the sticker price on that shiny new car is precisely the price we must pay to own it. Will home prices ever be "fixed"? Don't hold your breath.

When you buy a new Saturn or Toyota, you are purchasing an item which has 250,000 exact clones, right down to the metallic paint. Assembly lines do not produce homes, and even if they did, each one would be plopped down on a unique parcel of earth that has no equal.

What is market value?

Appraisers define "market value" as the price a willing and able buyer pays for a property in an arm's length transaction. The truth of the matter is that nobody knows a home's true market value, not sellers, not buyers, not appraisers, not real estate agents. True market value is not established until the day the home sells and title transfers to the new owner.

In fact, there is such ambiguity about market value that estimates

can range by tens of thousands of dollars for just about any home. A recent cartoon in this publication showed an older, experienced agent advising a younger agent: "Appraising a home is very scientific," he says. "First agonize over all the pertinent sales date. Then we guess."

Comparison approach to value

In the most frequently used approach to value, the comparison approach, one takes a look at recent comparable closed sales. The only problem is, that quaint term comparable is just so much wishful thinking: there is no such thing. This is particularly true in our area, where there are few if any cookie-cutter neighborhoods. Can you think of even one comparable home to yours?

Agents and appraisers try to find sales as close as possible in time and geography to the subject property. Next, my personal preference is to search by living area, which I have found to be a more reliable variable than number of rooms. I do my search within a certain range.

For example, for a 1,200 square-foot-home, I will search for homes between 1,000 and 1,400 square feet. I then add and subtract for amenities and condition —add so much for a view, subtract so much for a busy street, add for a remodeled kitchen.

Obviously this is a very subjective process: just how much is a

REAL ESTATE FORUM



BOB BLUMBERG

view worth? \$5,000? \$10,000? And, of course, there are views and there are views. So it goes. Nevertheless, if we find enough properties and plot them out, a pattern generally begins to emerge.

So much for "science". The rest is pure art.

This is where you must rely on your agent's intuitive sense. That sense will come from a combination of knowledge of the market, experience, and judgment. Multitudes of intangibles just do not show up on any spec sheet: the way the light hits the dining room, the color of the wood, the ambience. Once I do my homework and go over the results with a seller, as a final check I invite the staff of Red Oak agents to the house and ask for their separate opinions.

Pricing Tips

Base your comparisons on closed sales, not active listings. Homes on the market are interesting to view as competition, but asking prices often have little relationship to market value. And an owner should never rely exclusively on his own judgment. When it comes time to

See BLUMBERG on page 20

Prelim prime

After months of searching, you've finally found it your perfect dream home. But is it perfect?

Will you be purchasing more than just a beautiful home? Will you also be acquiring liens placed on the property by prior owners? Have documents been recorded that will restrict your use of the property?

The preliminary report will provide you with the opportunity, prior to purchase, to review matters affecting your property which will be excluded from coverage under your title insurance policy unless removed or eliminated before your purchase.

To help you better understand this often bewildering subject, the California Land Title Association has answered some of the questions most commonly asked about preliminary reports.

Q: What is a preliminary title report?

A. A preliminary report is a report prepared prior to issuing a policy of title insurance that shows the ownership of a specific parcel of land, together with the liens and encumbrances thereon which will not be covered under a subsequent title insurance policy.

Q. What role does a preliminary report play in the title insurance process?

This process called "underwriting" is the process of reviewing and confirming the title to the property before the transaction is completed.

See PRELIM



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JUST LISTED IN BERKELEY

Elegant 1914 Colonial. 5+BR, 3+BA. Original flavor and charm throughout. Huge LR, study, rmly rm., rmly DR, remodeled. kit. hdwd floors, lots of storage. Mint condition.

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2670 sq. ft. on level lot and private road. Pick your own finish inside the way you want your home to look. 4BR, 2.5 BA, large family room and kit, plus three car garage.

MEL COPLAND 339-8400



BEST VALUE IN ROCKRIDGE

3BR, 3.5 BA Contemp., new construction, gorgeous interior, dining, wonderful kit/rm. combo, huge LR w/ vaulted ceiling, stfr. ste., great backyard, hdwd firs. NAHID NASSIRI



SUN FILLED CONTEMPORARY \$479,000

Prestigious Piedmont Pines. Like new 3+BR in private peaceful setting. Many upgrades. Plus rooms for him off/au pair rm, walk to regional park trails.

LYN MURRAY 339-8400



JUST LISTED LARGE FAMILY HOME

Perfect for the large family. Texas-sized on a quite tree lined street, steps to terrific schools. Formal dining room, family room and more. Open Sunday.

MORRIE FEIGENBERG 547-6975



SOPHISTICATED CONTEMPORARY

Privacy pervades as soon as you enter the gated courtyard; glass, wood, views are all part of the custom qualities great kitchen, wonderful storage.

HAL MARCUS 339-9281



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PIEDMONT CENTRAL LOCATION! \$589,000

Gracious Craftsman w/ 3BR, 2.5BA, den, office, sunroom, eat-in-kitchen, formal dining with built-in buffet, gleaming hardwoods, fireplace, sconces. Landscaped!

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NAHID NASSIRI 531-1670

LG. CONTEMPORARY FAMILY HOME! \$449,000

5BR, 3.5 BA w/ lg. family rm., FDR, eat-in-kitchen, lovely, large backyard w/lawn and deck. Great in-law potential. Easy location for easy commute.

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CHARLENE CLAYBAUGH 339-8400 ext. 216

AGE-SIZE-LOCATION-STYLE-R-HERE \$419,500

3BR, 2.5 BA, huge storage, fireplace. Split level, exterior entry for office or for in-law.

ED LINDORFER 339-8400

A PRIZED SHARE OF BERKELEY HISTORY!....\$399,000

Henry Gutterson design. Incredible living room with 20 foot, vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors. The most distinctive home in the neighborhood. Gorgeous fenced yard, corner lot.

NAHID NASSIRI 531-1670

MONTCLAIR AT ITS FINEST!....\$399,000

Fabulous home within walking distance to Montclair shops. A yard to raise your family in. Great deck, family room and so much more.

MICHAEL HARDING 654-2669

JULIA MORGAN STYLE MAKES \$60 K ...\$375,000

Elegant Adams Point vintage beauty! Huge authentic 1st floor flat w/ 3 fireplaces, garden, & car. house, + 9 separate rooms; legal/versatile! D.C. HODGES, LYNN MURRAY 339-8400

WONDERFUL ROCKRIDGE TRAD.....\$369,500

Immaculate 4BR, 3BA. Lovely living room with coved ceilings, fireplace, formal dining room, delightful newer kitchen w/ brfst nook & deck overlooking gorgeous backyard & SF view. Hardwood floors, family room.

NAHID NASSIRI 531-1670

ENCHANTING MONTCLAIR TUDOR.....\$359,000

This home has 4BR, 2BA, remod. kitchen, lovely gardens with hot tub, new roof, refinished, hardwood floors... move-in condition, terrific value. Open Sunday 2-4:30 p.m.

CHARLENE CLAYBAUGH 339-8400 ext. 216

PIEDMONT PINES-NEW LISTING.....\$335,000

Stunning, light-filled 4BR, 2BA Contemporary with versatile floor plan. Dramatic floor to ceiling windows and cathedral ceilings in living room.

CAROL COHEN 339-8400

SWEEPING YOU OFF YOUR FEET.....\$329,000

Incredible views to S.F., Mt. Diablo, permeate this bright, sunny 2+BR home with open courtyard and garden. In need of paint and landscaping.

HAL CASTLE 339-8400

CROCKER TRADITIONAL.....\$290,000

3BR, 1.5 BA, living room with fireplace, formal dining room, hardwood floors, large deck, view of Lake Merritt & downtown. lg. bonus rm.

CHARLENE CLAYBAUGH 339-8400 ext. 216

1926 CRAFTSMAN-A CLASS ACT.....\$225,000

Special 3BR, 1-BA split level San Leandro classic w/ gorgeous gumwood trim & refinished hardwood floors. Great area in which to live and enjoy life!

EARL SHENK 287-9590

ENJOY STEADY INCOME.....\$221,000

From this one of a kind duplex with 2 comm. spacious: a 2BR, 1BA and 1BR, 1BA units, great upscale potential, low maint., a best-buy for investors.

ARNOLD MUELLER 530-6099

UNBELIEVABLE BARGAIN!.....\$219,000

Kitchen with nook & level out to private yard, rumpus-office, + garage + shop.

ARNOLD MUELLER 530-6099

SHOWCASE FOR GUMWOOD PANELING.....\$290,000

Grand Lake home has all its gorgeous wood features preserved in bookcases, hutch, wainscoting. Updated, spacious kitchen & bath. Light-filled, private setting.

JIM SCHUBERT 436-6683

BEST CRAFTSMAN.....\$199,000

Spacious 2-story traditional with gleaming hardwood floors, remodeled kitchen and bath. Expandable attic and level yard. Quiet street near Lake Merritt.

LYN MURRAY 339-8400

TRIPLEX NEAR LAKE MERRIT.....\$277,000

Two 2BR & 1 studio, steady tenants, 2 gar. 3 year old roof, common laundry, walk to lake & transportation.

CHARLENE CLAYBAUGH 339-8400 ext. 216

BEAUTIFUL CRAFTSMAN.....\$199,000

Spacious 2-story traditional with gleaming hardwood floors, remodeled kitchen and bath. Expandable attic, full basement.

SHERDELLA SIMS 339-8400

AN UNYIELDING COMMITMENT.....\$175,000

To quality. Mills College Mediterranean on oversized lot.

confidence. Remodeled kit., FDR., bleached hardwood

running...

from page 14

in order to plan their best approach, buyers sometimes wonder what they can tell if there actually offers. Unfortunately, you always know in advance, why it is so important to be a competent, experienced professional you trust. Your agent will be able to advise you on how to proceed.

If the seller needs time to move or find another property, the terms of the second offer might be more attractive. In addition, the second buyer's significantly higher down payment provides more security that will be approved for the loan.

In this instance, the seller will probably either counter the price of the second offer (in which case the buyer could reject the counter and walk away), or simply accept the lower offer with the better terms. Make sure your agent asks why the seller is selling and what terms he needs before you write up your contract.

If you have written an offer without any competition and another offer surfaces at the last minute, the listing (seller's) agent should give you the opportunity to adjust your offer if you so choose.

If the listing agent has a contract from his own buyer, make sure he does not represent the seller as well and listen to offers from other

agents. This is a definite conflict of interest. Insist that the listing agent's office manager handle the multiple offer presentation in order to ensure fairness.

Final thoughts. It is not easy to be a buyer in a seller's market. Should you wait until the market cools down? What if that doesn't happen for three years and prices have risen 25 to 30 percent? That could turn out to be an expensive decision. On the other hand, if interest rates continue rising, this seller's market could become a memory.

If you do choose to be a player in this market, remember there are past trends and history to help guide you. Most of all, don't forget the three most important words in real estate: location, location, location.

My second article will review hot market tips for sellers. Call me for my previous, related articles: *The Changing Market; Understanding the Market; Buyers' Do's and Don'ts; Use Local Agent; Not Just Termites; and "As Is" Pointers.*

Don Dunning is a 17-year real estate veteran. He is a full-time Realtor and consultant with Wells & Bennett Realtors in Oakland. Call him at 531-7000, ext. 239 to put his knowledge and experience to work for you.

The GRUBB Co.

REALTORS

Experience is essential.

PIEDMONT

Open Sunday 2 - 4:30 p. m.

NEW PRICE! \$699,000

100 CIRCLE
plus home w/gorgeous kit/family room & 3 sunny bdrrms
plus view & wonderful entertaining. SHEILA GALLAGHER
\$669,000

1827 OAKLAND AVENUE
plus of living space Family room w/fireplace, rumpus
& baths. Storage galore. Level-in. KURT BUCHHOLZ

OAKLAND

Open Sunday 2 - 4:30 p. m.

NEW PRICE! \$699,000

plus home w/gorgeous kit/family room & 3 sunny bdrrms
plus view & wonderful entertaining. SHEILA GALLAGHER
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Sharing secrets



Pat Augsburger
"Mediterranean magic" just of the secrets that await you on this year's Secret Gardens tour.

The eleventh annual Secret Gardens of the East Bay will take place on Sunday, April 28, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine. Sponsored by Park Day School of Oakland, this year's self-directed tour consists of ten privately owned gardens that display outstanding examples of water features (such as ponds and fountains), color artistry and design innovation. bicycle maps are also available. Tour tickets are \$30 per person; box lunches with iced drinks available for an additional \$7.

On Saturday, April 26, the day before the regular Secret Gardens of the East Bay tour, See SECRET on page 19

Open Sunday 2-4



421 and 387 Capricorn, Oakland

An enchanted Montclair Hideaway with three bedrooms and two baths, including a spacious living room, a large eat-in kitchen, hardwood floors and a "plus" on the lower level. Also on the property is a separate "Hansel and Gretel" cottage with one bedroom and one bath. This property is secluded, yet within easy walking distance to Montclair Village. Offered for \$319,000

Karen Starr

Office (510) 339-0400
Residence (510) 654-4120

Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed

The GRUBB Co.

REALTORS

THORNWALL Properties

GREAT SELECTION OF AFFORDABLE HOMES!

ADORABLE STUDIO UNIT

\$39,500

In a secure building for people over 62. Large common areas. Walk to shops and transportation. Marilyn Pursley x224

WALK TO GOURMET GHETTO

\$98,500

Sunny North Campus 1 bedroom TIC unit, upstairs with view! Kathryn Hill x242 OPEN SUNDAY

OCEAN VIEW STARTER

\$149,000

Just listed! Updated cheerful 2 bedroom home with wonderful garden. Kathryn Stein x230 OPEN SUNDAY

A PRISTINE CONDO!

\$169,000

With bay views, high ceiling, sunrm/dk, 2 master bedroom suites, interior laundry rm, & too many amenities to mention. Naomi Kane x238

BEST NORTH BERKELEY LOCATION

\$172,500

Spacious 1 bedroom condo with filtered bay view. Divided living room can be used as bedroom or office. Naomi Kane x238

LIKE NEW!

\$198,000

Bright, spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with deep private yard. Wheelchair accessible. Marilyn Pursley x224 OPEN SUNDAY

1656 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley
848-1950

Area Home Sales

ALAMEDA
3520 Bowman Ct. - \$183,000
1812 Buena Vista - \$199,000
3214 Fairview Ave. - \$305,000
30 Killybegs - \$230,000
580 Kings Rd. - \$279,000
256 Ratto Rd. - \$336,500
403 Santa Clara - \$140,000
1152 Versailles - \$191,000

ALBANY
716 Carmel Ave. - \$275,000
535 Pierce, 3310 - \$145,000

BERKELEY
2327 7th St. - \$200,000
30 Alamo Ave. - \$250,000
449 Boynton Ave. - \$290,000
1006 Cragmont Ave. - \$450,000
1358 Hearst Ave. - \$180,000
3317 King St. - \$104,000
2686 Mabel St. - \$149,000
1518 MLK Jr. Way - \$284,000
1326 Milvia, B - \$133,000
1153 Shattuck Ave. - \$270,000

EL CERRITO
608 Balra Drive - \$251,000
1042 Everett St. - \$144,000

916 Liberty St. - \$155,000
1512 Madera Circle - \$250,000

EMERYVILLE
6 Admiral, 288 - \$153,500
6363 Christie, 702 - \$114,000

OAKLAND
1066 Ardmore Ave. - \$429,000
6066 Aspinwall Rd. - \$503,000
5809 Balmoral Dr. - \$363,500
35 Bay Forest Ct. - \$350,000
43 Bay Forest Dr. - \$540,000
2756 Bellaire Pl. - \$130,000
2812 Bellaire Pl. - \$160,000
3436 Boston Ave. - \$175,000
4833 Brookdale - \$153,000
668 Brookwood Pl. - \$185,000
240 Caldecott, 106 - \$126,500
2903 Carmel St. - \$135,000
6868 Chambers Dr. - \$320,000
5061 Congress Ave. - \$115,000
5127 Coronado Ave. - \$300,000
4137 Dickson Ct. - \$146,500
4009 Elston Ave. - \$192,500
801 Franklin, 1206 - \$153,000
1632 Hampel St. - \$215,000
401 Hiller Dr. - \$323,000
7762 Hillmont Dr. - \$115,000

235 La Salle Ave. - \$750,000
11251 Lochard St. - \$330,000
3863 Loma Vista - \$110,000
6056 Majestic Ave. - \$133,500
455 Merritt Ave. - \$405,000
3145 Middleton St. - \$200,000
3209 Monterey - \$247,500
330 Pershing Dr. - \$1,299,000
2624 Rawson St. - \$150,500

PIEDMONT
11 Selborne Dr. - \$700,000
285 Sheridan Ave. - \$640,000

SAN LEANDRO
1460 142nd Ave. - \$148,000
1465 153rd Ave. - \$125,000
2085 Altamont Rd. - \$148,000
15680 Atlantis Ave. - \$252,000
97 Begier Ave. - \$191,000
444 Caliente Dr. - \$106,000
14804 Crosby St. - \$146,000
894 Levelling, 16 - \$99,000
15771 Maubert Ave. - \$135,000
2579 San Leandro - \$149,000
13737 Seagate Dr. - \$163,000
2160 W. Ave. 135th - \$160,000

SALES STATS BY CITY
ALAMEDA
TOTAL SALES: 8
LOWEST PRICE: \$140,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$336,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$232,937

ALBANY
TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$145,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$275,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$210,000

BERKELEY
TOTAL SALES: 10

LOWEST PRICE: \$114,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$450,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$232,937
EL CERRITO
TOTAL SALES: 1
LOWEST PRICE: \$104,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$450,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$232,937

OAKLAND
TOTAL SALES: 30
LOWEST PRICE: \$110,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$800,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$232,937

PIEDMONT
TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$148,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$640,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$344,000

SAN LEANDRO
TOTAL SALES: 12
LOWEST PRICE: \$148,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$640,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$232,937

Stop Smoking

American Heart Association

This list was reprinted by Hills New Reports, Inc., of Walnut Creek, from county recorder's company guarantees completeness of the Sales prices are upon applicable taxes.

Gallery...

Continued from page 17

paintings and drawings taken from her rich imaginal world which she sees as soul messages.

"Dream Squares" are Rusnak's prisma-color drawings on paper that capture these fleeting images. This body of artwork reflects the last 20 years of written personal experience in journals and dream books, which are the sources of Rusnak's work.

"This unfolding of sensations, body feelings, forms, on the very edge of consciousness is where self understanding grows," said Rusnak. "Drawing and painting fix the experience in space/time/memory. Once drawn, the images teach me and acquire a power of their own."

"When I step back after drawing many squares, I see the larger life themes, whereas most of the time I am absorbed in the individual squares of the drama," she said.

According to Rusnak, most images are multidimensional and unfold new meanings as time passes.

One will not know the full story behind each picture, but some of the work will serve as a springboard to one's own associations and meanings.

"There are archetypes and metaphors here and, in the overall view, a balance of opposites: light and dark, pleasure and pain, positive and negative," said Rusnak.

Meet Rosalie Cassell and Diane Rusnak, view and purchase their fascinating works of art at a public reception 6 to 8 p.m., Fri., April 18 at Red Oak Realty.



ELEGANCE AND GLAMOUR

Located in the rolling hills of Wildcat Canyon, this home was designed and constructed for the ultimate in quality. California informality blends with Old World craftsmanship to create a unique atmosphere in which to express your individuality. The floor plan includes a dramatic living room, dining room, family room, 5 bedrooms, state of the art kitchen, and separate guest quarters. Shown by appointment.

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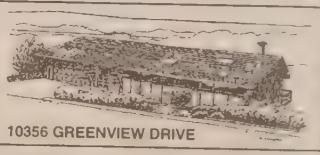
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Oakland

\$6,000-\$69,000 320-324 TENTH ST. Retail/Office condos! Zono 1st floor available! Tere Lee 521-3352

\$47,500 1975 81st AVE. Lot zoned for up to 4 units! Great for contractor! Richard Powell 814-4937

\$73,500 3877 HOWE #308. Great location! Walk to Piedmont Ave. Spacious 1 BD condo in security complex, near bus stops. Foster Fletcher 523-5750

\$90,000 2142 34th AVE. Large 4 BD, 1.5/2 BA bungalow in a creekside setting! Need: PENDING! Great dining, eat-in kitchen, fireplace & garage! Tere Lee 514-4706

\$133,000 625 MADISON #208. Spacious & light 2 BD, 2 BA corner unit with 2 balconies! Convenient to shopping & freeway! Tere Lee 521-3352

\$165,000 2007 HIGH. Three units! One 3 BD, one 2 BD, & one 1 BD, separately metered units all with 1 BA! Garage for 3 cars, close to shopping & transportation! Tere Lee 521-3352

\$189,000 2621 CARMEL. Pristine 1-level 2+ BD bungalow in lovely neighborhood! Many upgrades, lots of plus space, nice rear yard with fruit trees, workshop & garage! Tere Lee 514-4706 & Darlene Hessler 865-5479

\$219,000 4041 MAYBELLE. A 3 BD, 2/1.5 BA home with large rooms, wide hallway, huge rec/bonus room, workshop area in 2-car garage & huge workshop area in basement! Large deck/balcony with built-in planter & large tool shed! Nina Quan 814-4836

\$239,000 3707 VIRDEN. Panoramic view of Mt. Tamalpais, Oakland lights & S.F. Bay! A wonderful tri-level Spanish Mediterranean home with 3 BD, 2 BA, formal dining, fireplace, hardwood floors, workshop, 2-car garage! Martha Turner 814-4828

\$295,000 3923 BROADWAY. Unique commercial building! F. turing kitchen, bar, meeting room, 2nd floor office, 3rd floor, 2 car garage! Peter Fletcher 523-5750

\$179,000 3472 MIDDLETON. move in! Cut 1" x 6" redwood floor, 2 BA, 2 car garage! PENDING! Peter Fletcher 523-5750

Castro Valley

\$179,000 3472 MIDDLETON

move in! Cut 1" x 6" redwood floor, 2 BA, 2 car garage! PENDING! Peter Fletcher 523-5750

Emeryville

\$180,000 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Family-owned business for 35 years! Eatery is a popular regular

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secret...

continued from page 18

Day School will offer a special event for those individuals with an above-average interest in agriculture and unusual land.

published the Limited Edition this event will provide a rare opportunity to obtain an in-depth view of four special gardens, to talk with garden owners and others. One of the four gardens—one acre property and private land of nationally recognized designer Bob Clark, is not included on regular Sunday tour.

Another exclusive feature of the Limited Edition tour will be a discussion of the history of Oakland Farms, presented by San Francisco Chronicle columnist Jon Carroll. The historic estate of spice magnate Adolph Schilling, located on the shores of Oakland's Lake Merritt, will provide the setting for Carroll's talk. Continental

breakfast will be served on the estate, which is a splendid example of a 19th century English garden.

On Saturday, April 26, the day before the regular tour, Park Day School will offer a special gardening event—the Limited Edition Tour.

recent years the estate has been home to the Bechtel Family, who engaged the services of Bob Clark to fulfill the garden's potential.

The Limited Edition tour will also include two of the more unusual gardens from the regular Sunday tour: the homes of the proprietors of Potomac Waterworks and Enchanted Plantings. Potomac

Waterworks enjoys a reputation as one of the state's premier design-build landscape firms specializing in water systems. On a modest lot, the owners of Potomac Waterworks have built a delightful garden featuring a koi "green" pond and a cunning selection of variegated greenery. Enchanted Plantings is known for its ability to hybridize and germinate unusual plants; the personal garden of the company's owners reflects this passion and talent. Both owners will be on hand to discuss their work in detail.

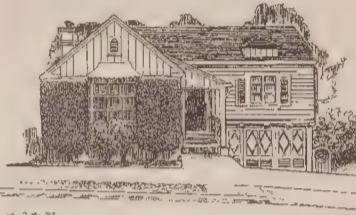
No more than sixty spaces will be available for the Limited Edition tour. The event will start at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 26. Tickets are \$100 per person and includes continental breakfast and transportation between sites. Several vehicles will be provided so that viewings and discussion may take place in small, staggered groups.

For ticket reservations and further information, please call the Garden Tour Hotline at Park Day School, 653-6250.

Better Homes Realty 339-4000

118 Sonia Street

Open Sun. 2-4:30



Asking price for this fine home is \$369,500

NEW LISTING - ROCKRIDGE TRADITIONAL

Wonderful family home. 4BR/3BA. Lovely living room with high coved ceilings, fireplace, arched doorways, formal dining room, delightful newer kitchen with deck, family room, gorgeous backyard, hardwood floors.

Nahid Nassiri
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BERKELEY

THOUSAND OAKS TUDOR! John Hudson Thomas masterpiece in prestigious neighborhood! 7BR, 5.5BA, family room, 1/2 acre lot, extensive updating and seismic retrofitting. Bebe McRae ext. 145.....\$1,300,000

NORTH BERKELEY LANDMARK IN TAMALPAIS RD. NEIGHBORHOOD, Open Sun. 2-5, 2645 Shasta Rd.

Spacious, elegant craftsman, private nature preserve, over 8,000 sq. ft. lot. Filtered views. 5+BR, 3.5BA, library, au pair suite. Susie Schevill ext. 144.....\$825,000

48 OAK RIDGE ROAD. Open Sunday 2-4. NEW LISTING! CLAREMONT CUL-DE-SAC & SF VIEW!

Mediterranean treasure with a walled courtyard entry, deck, garden, and family room. 4BR, 3BA, study.

Spacious, one level, light-filled, open floor plan. Tricia Swift ext. 131.....\$775,000

ELEGANT FREDERICK CONDO DESIGN! 4/3, light & extremely private. Walk-in closet with loggia for outdoor living. Tricia Swift ext. 140.....\$635,000

TEMPLETON CONDO! Extraordinary opportunity in our finest loc. P. Templeton ext. 131.....\$575,000 "AS IS"

CHARMING NORTHSHIDE MEDITERRANEAN. Elegant

details, lovely bay, bridge & rooftop views. 3BR, 3BA, terrific neighborhood. Gini Erck ext. 133.....\$345,000

OAKLAND

ROSE GARDEN WALK. Upscale living at great price! New condo. Only 1 left! Ron ext. 127.....\$210,000

ROCKRIDGE BUNGALOW. New price! Classic Rockridge 3/1+1 bungalow. Tricia Swift ext. 140.....\$199,000

PIEDMONT

STATELY 1915 CLASSIC with grand proportions! Exquisite woodwork and unusual detail! 3BR, family room, 2 full and 2 half baths, sunny patio & fenced yard! Bebe McRae ext. 145.....\$1,025,000

WALNUT CREEK

195 PLEASANT VALLEY DRIVE. Open Sun. 2-4. Big level lot, great light, conv. location. Leslie Avant ext. 122.....\$335,000

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Come explore unique kitchens



Built in 1903 for the daughter of the famous San Francisco Ghiradelli chocolate family, this is one of five houses that will be featured in this year's Heart of the Home Kitchen and Home Tour.

Tickets are now on sale for the Ninth Annual Heart of the Home Kitchen and Home Tour taking place on Fri. and Sat. April 25 and 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sponsored by Children's Support League of the East Bay, the self-guided tour of five outstanding Piedmont homes showcases distinctively remodeled kitchens. Patrons will be able to meet with some of the designers and architects of these kitchens and view most of the first floor

of each house as well as beautiful gardens.

There will also be other activities at the Piedmont Community Center. A pre-purchased box lunch will be prepared by Sue Remick of Someone's in the Kitchen. The popular CSL Boutique is open to the public and will feature many unique, hand-crafted items perfect for Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduation and teacher's gifts. Several vendors are returning from last year's boutique as well as some new and very talented artisans.

A raffle drawing will be held April 27 with over 200 prizes available. Grand prizes include hotel stays at the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows on the island of Hawaii, Pointe Hilton Resort at Squaw Peak in Phoenix, Luxor Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, and Rosario Beach Hotel and Spa in Baja.

Since 1988 Children's Support League has donated \$300,000 to local children's charities including Ann Martin See KITCHEN on page 21

**PACIFIC UNION
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE**

HOMES OPEN SUNDAY 2:00-4:30

OAKLAND / PIEDMONT / BERKELEY

44 FARRAGUT AVENUE, PIEDMONT - 7+BD/5+BA.....\$1,950,000	2399,500
Beautifully restored, grand formal rms, 1/2 acre, bay views. Georgia Cornell	
13331 CAMPUS DRIVE, RIDGEMONT - 5BD/4+BA.....\$1,450,000	2399,000
Dramatic custom home, sweeping SF/bridge views, huge party rm. Robyn Mohr	
255 MOUNTAIN AVE., PIEDMONT - 4BD/3BA.....\$2,000,000	
New listing! Stately home, remodeled kitchen/fam rm & mt st. Debi Fitzgerald	
36 CREST ROAD, PIEDMONT - 3+BD/3+BA.....\$875,000	
Beautifully remodeled, large master with bay view, gardens. Diane E. McCann	
943 AQUARIUS WAY, MONTCLAIR - 4+BD/3+BA.....\$849,000	284,500
New listing! Brand new sophisticated Spanish on 1/4 acre. Vicki Woodhead	
2820 BURTON DRIVE, MONTCLAIR - 5BD/4BA.....\$729,000	
North bay & canyon views, gorgeous level yard, 3-car garage. Teri Carlisle	
3922 HARRISON ST., PIEDMONT AVE - 6BD/2+BA.....\$525,000	
Tour of the century mansion, library, full basement & attic. Francis Heath	
518 SCENIC AVENUE, PIEDMONT - 3+BD/2+BA.....\$499,000	
Privacy, charm, SF bay views, stunning new kitchen, yard. Martha Holstlaw	
223 DUNCAN WAY, MONTCLAIR - 2BD/1.5BA + 1BD/1BA.....\$395,000	
Charming secluded English Tudor - separate cottage & gardens. Kathy Flynn	
1690 TRESTLE GLEN, CROCKER HGLNDS - 3+BD/1+BA.....\$359,000	
New listing! Impressive 2-story home, beautiful updated kitchen. Joan Haase	
1027 CLARENDON CRESCENT, CROCKER - 3BD/1+BA.....\$329,000	
Great street! Upgraded, ultimate kitchen, new bath, level yard. Donna Costello	
5704 MORAGA AVENUE, MONTCLAIR - 3BD/2BA.....\$329,000	
New listing! Private setting, landscaped back yard and lawn. Chuck Corwin	
1305-B HENRY STREET, BERKELEY - 2BD/2+BA.....\$319,500	
Last of 4 beautiful new townhomes, top quality, 2 mt suites. Joanna Gould	
2033 MANZANITA, MONTCLAIR - 3+BD/2BA.....\$239,500	
All level living, wonderful setting, formal dining, huge family room. Dick Cohen	
152 GLENWOOD GLADE, MONTCLAIR - 2BD/1+BA.....\$299,000	
Cheerful, well built cottage, private setting, 2 frpls, level yard. Nancy Chew	
4101 39TH AVENUE, REDWOOD HTS - 3BD/2BA.....\$298,000	
Beautifully remodeled, large master with bay view, gardens. Diane E. McCann	
4239 GREGORY STREET, REDWOOD HTS - 3BD/2BA.....\$284,500	
New listing! Kt family rm combo, beautiful landscaped yard w/deck. Teri Carlisle	
5376 THORNHILL DR., MONTCLAIR - 2BD/2BA.....\$279,000	
New listing! Unique "polar" home in private woodsy retreat. Vicki Woodhead	
4093 WATERHOUSE ROAD, OAKMERE - 2BD/1BA.....\$269,000	
New listing! Charming English, separate office/au pair & bath. S. Klemmer	
4230 DETROIT AVE., REDWOOD HTS - 3BD/1+BA.....\$259,500	
New listing! Beautiful Tudor, remodeled kitchen, great details. Diane E. McCann	
3940 SEQUOIA ROAD, SEQUOIA HILLS - 3+BD/1+BA.....\$249,000	
New listing! Pool & hot tub! Hdwd floors, formal DR, 2-car gar. Lee Jacobson	
4442 CLAREWOOD DRIVE, ROCKRIDGE - 2BD/2+BA.....\$239,000	
Lovely sunny townhouse, private path & deck, best location. K. Callahan	
4458 ELINOR AVE., REDWOOD HEIGHTS - 3BD/1BA.....\$232,500	
Lovely home, remodeled kt, new roof, back yard & garden. Diane E. McCann	
5630 MORAGA AVENUE, MONTCLAIR - 2BD/1+BA.....\$232,500	
Charming Normandy cottage nestled in trees, 2 sunny patios. Bonnie Hirsch	
7553 VALENTINE STREET, OAKLAND - 2BD/1BA.....\$139,500	
Spacious eat-in kt, hdwd flrs, white picket fence, nice yard. Lee Jacobson	

BY APPOINTMENT

OAKLAND / PIEDMONT

GRACIOUS TRADITIONAL - PIEDMONT.....\$1,750,000	\$389,000
Architect designed with French touches. Perfect for entertaining with lovely private gardens and pool. 6BD/4+BA. Sally Morrison	
NEW PRICE - PIEDMONT.....\$939,000	
Elegant & sophisticated! Panoramic bay views, top quality reconstruction, 3BD/3BA, decks, 2 frpls, den. Dee Bonham	
POPULAR AREA - PIEDMONT.....\$525,000	
Attractive 3BD/2BA level-in home. Family room opens to a private deck, formal dining, 2-car attached garage. Sally Morrison	
CROCKER HIGHLANDS COLONIAL.....\$489,500	
This sunny home features 3BD/3BA, spacious formal rooms, paneled library with frpl, French doors, garden. Roselle Woods	
SF BAY VIEW - MONTCLAIR.....\$619,000	
Spacious contemporary, 4BD/3BA, new marble master bath, formal DR, fabulous kt, flagstone patio, level gardens. Roselle Woods	
ENGLISH COUNTRY ESTATE.....\$499,000	
4BD/3-BA, bay views, rec room with built-in TV/stereo, separate office, hdwd floors, possible au pair, level yard. Chuck Corwin	
NEW CONTEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION.....\$489,000	
Wonderful view! Open floor plan, over 2,700 sq. ft. of living space. 3BD/3-BA, large family room or 4th bedroom. Dick Cohen	
UPPER ROCKRIDGE MEDITERRANEAN.....\$479,000	
Custom home w/fabulous bay views & terraces. 4BD/3BA, wonderful light throughout, hdwd flrs, au pair w/sup entry. Dee Bonham	
RIDGEMONT FAMILY HOME.....\$415,000	
Situated on a quiet cul-de-sac with wonderful outdoor living on large level lot. 4BD/3BA, family room, 3-car garage. Robyn Mohr	
PRIVATE SETTING - MONTCLAIR.....\$409,000	
Dramatic architecture, 3BD/2+BA, atrium play room off family room, LR with library, box beams, tiled patio deck. Chuck Corwin	
ENCHANTING - PIEDMONT PINES.....\$399,000	
Pride of ownership is reflected in this wonderful English style home. 4BD/1+BA, formal DR, private park-like grounds. Kathy Flynn	
UPPER LAUREL TRADITIONAL.....\$239,500	
This 3BD/2BA home is warm & inviting w/lot of light and bay view. Remodeled kt, formal DR, hdwd flrs, great yard. Vicki Woodhead	
SAN FRANCISCO VIEW.....\$217,500	
Sophisticated, upgraded townhouse. 3BD/2+BA including master suite, lovely garden with flagstone patio. Robyn Mohr	
RIDGEMONT TOWNHOMES.....\$154,500	
One of only two townhomes in this complex. 2BD/2+BA, in-unit laundry, frpl, 2 parking spaces, pool & spa. Dick Cohen	
PIEDMONT AVENUE AREA.....\$84,500	
Walk to Piedmont Ave! 1BD/1BA condo on quiet street. New carpet, fresh paint, partial bay view, assigned parking. Roselle Woods	

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Events

The Events Calendar does not accept for-profit listings. Announcements for these events can be made in our classified section by calling 339-8777. Listings are made on a space available basis.

PHD Design Group invites you to an innovative series of **Redecorating Workshops** continuing through Fri., April 25. Geared toward the cost-conscious do-it-yourselfer, these workshops will cover topics ranging from buying and decorating with antiques to using existing furniture to create a new look. The workshops will be held at 5 Captain Dr. in Emeryville. Call Phyllis Johnson at 763-3488 for more information.

The Golden Gate Chapter of the American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI) hosts its monthly meeting 7 p.m., Thurs., April 17 at Hs Lordship's Restaurant at the Berkeley Marina. Home inspectors who belong to ASHI of those interested in joining and meeting other professionals are invited to attend. Along with a regular chapter business meeting, Douglas Hansen, a member of the ASHI and the California Real Estate Inspection Association, will discuss the similarities and differences between the standards of these two organizations.

Blumberg...

Continued from page 16

price my own home, I will surely be asking other agents to help me keep perspective.

A good general rule is to set the asking price at no more than 5 percent above anticipated market value. An asking price that is too high will discourage offers, result in a longer marketing period and ultimately a lower sale price.

On average, homes in this area sell for about 95 percent of their last asking price. Keep in mind this is only an average; some homes sell for more, some for less.

As a final check, try to imagine you are the buyer. Would you pay more for a house than other similar homes? And wouldn't you be more

The \$35 cost includes dinner. Call Dermot O'Kelly at 549-9335 for more information.

Cal Fed presents a series of free **Brown Bag Lunch Time Home Buyer Seminars**. The seminars are held the third Fri. of each month. The next seminar "Seven Strategies" is scheduled for 12:10 p.m., Fri., April 18 at Cal Fed, 1325 Broadway in Oakland. Presented by the dynamic Nate Brooks of RE/MAX in Motion, these seminars will teach you the exact steps you'll need to protect yourself when buying a home. Call Gary Robinson at 530-4789 or Ivory Hart at 834-3392 for more information.

The Oakland Association of Realtors (OAR) presents Alex Creel, vice president of government affairs and the California Association of Realtors chief lobbyist who will speak on **Affiliated Business Reform**, 9 a.m., Fri., April 18 at the OAR, 1528 Webster Street in Oakland. Creel will discuss four bills currently before the assembly. These bills affect the way title companies and real estate brokers will do business in the future. Call 836-3000 for more information.

The Building Education Center (BEC) is the place to start your

inclined to make an offer in the first place if you felt the seller was asking a fair and reasonable price?

Even in this seller's market of frantic buyers, multiple offers and quick sales, some homes remain on the market.

Although this is one of the best selling markets in a long time, smart pricing is still essential.

Keeping a realistic attitude—and having a skilled agent—will go a long way to ease the stress and clear the confusion.

Bob Blumberg is in the midst of his 23rd year of listing and selling local real estate. He is co-owner and cofounder of Red Oak Realty, Top of Solano, Berkeley. Got a question or comment? Look for your answer in this column. 527-3387 (x132), or blumberg@holonet.net/

dream home or to start turning your home into a dream. On Sat., April 19 BEC presents **Owner Contracting and Project Management** and Doug Carver's **Controlling Termites and Dry-rot**. On Sun., April 20 Doug Kibbey will host **Healthful Building Materials**. Jennifer Almstead will teach you **Ceramic Tile Installation** on Sat and Sun. April 19 and 20. On Mon., April 21, the two-part workshop **Solving Residential Drainage Problems** will be presented by drainage/landscape contractor Christopher Smith. This workshop will conclude Mon. April 28. Call BEC at 525-7610 for more information.

The Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society presents the **Annual Iris Flower Show**, 12:30 to 5 p.m., Sat., April 19 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun., April 20. Sanctioned by the American Iris Society, the show will feature all iris types in bloom including many of the beardless varieties

such as the Pacific Coast Hybrids, Siberians, Spurias, Japanese, and Loisanians. The show will take place at the Garden Center Building, 666 Lakeside Park, Oakland. The show is free. There is a \$2 parking fee. Call 482-5252 for more information.

Truitt & White Lumber Co. presents a free seminar: **What You Need to Know Before You Remodel**, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Sat., April 19 at 642 Hearst Ave. in Berkeley. Paul Winans of Winans Construction will teach you how to maximize the value and rewards of your project, while minimizing unnecessary cost and frustration. Reservations are required. Call 649-2674.

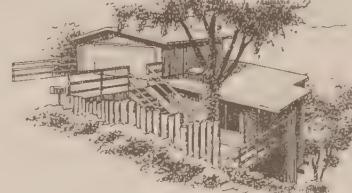
Karen Ward of CMG Mortgage invites you to **Real Estate Financing 101**, 10 a.m. to noon, Sat., April 19 at CMG Mortgage, 1225 Solano Ave. in Albany. Become an edu-

cated real estate consumer. Learn how to minimize closing costs; see the difference between a loan with and without mortgage insurance; get acquainted with lender guidelines, the income you need to qualify for a loan, low-down payment and no-down payment options and community assistance programs. Call 718-2134 or contact Karen Ward at www.reloan.com for more information.

The Northern California chapter of the nonprofit American Bamboo Society hosts the free **Bamboo Festival, Sale and Rare Bamboo Auction**, Sat. April 19 at the San Francisco County Fair Bldg., 9th Ave. and Lincoln Way in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. The sale begins at noon, an introduction to bamboo in the garden will be held at 1 p.m. and the auction starts at 1:30 p.m. This annual event features clumping and running bamboo from Central and South America, the Himalayas, Southeast and East Asia.

The Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association announces the **22nd Annual Spring House Tour**, noon to 5 p.m., Sun. April 20. Enjoy the landscape of Berkeley's Thousand Oaks neighborhood. Appreciate

See EVENTS

Open Sunday -- April 20, 1997**6355 Girvin Drive, Oakland**

A Tom Lowe Contemporary, circa 1973, with spectacular canyon vistas and ultimate privacy. The home offers a dramatic living room with high ceilings and access to a sunny deck, an updated kitchen, solid maple floors in the family room, two spacious bedrooms and an office/den. **Offered for \$295,000**

Anian Pettit Tunney

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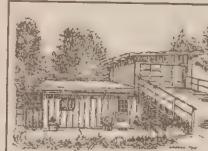
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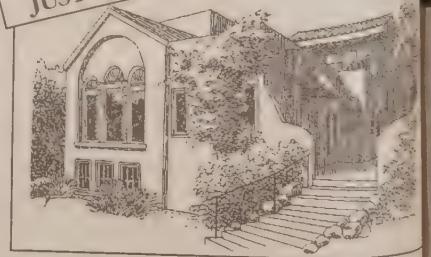
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PACIFIC UNION

Web site holds clues to protecting old oak

I have a slope (45 degrees) 75 feet that is a problem growing anything. The ground is good here, but I believe the best problem is that the area is under the shade of a very old oak tree. We have an automatic sprinkler system too, looking for some bushes and cover — pretty low maintenance stuff. Any ideas?

Develop Blossom End Rot with irregular watering that takes the plants between a wet and dry condition. As the plants get larger you need to lengthen the time between waterings while increasing the amount of water.

The variable is summer temperatures since they vary from week to week. Normally, one or

two times a week for squash, cucumbers and peppers is sufficient. With tomatoes every 7-10 days is normal, again it depends on the temperatures.

Q: I have several very old Camellia bushes that have become very sparse in the center. For the last three or four years I have been lazy and not fertilized like I should. How severely can I prune them and should I still be fertilizing them? Also, the flowers get a rusty color, like they are rooting from the inside out.

A: Camellias, young or old need to be fertilized on a regular schedule using Azalea, Camellia and Rhododendron Food, April through October and switching to 10-10-10 November through

local nursery may have a recommendation or go to my web site: www.dirtgardener.com and the arborist database. It is specific.

I have had good success with zucchini except for the two years. I get lots of male flowers but they never develop, just rot off. They get water and I tried hand watering without any success. I am doing wrong?

"Blossom End Rot" is the term with your squash. It also affects tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers. It is caused by a lack of calcium in the soil and watering times. Calcium is added by using Oyster Shell Lime at the time of planting.

Peppers, cucumbers

tomatoes like to be kept moist in draining soil. They de-



by Buzz Bertolero

March. Cottonseed Meal is also a very good substitute.

It is very important to keep the area under Camellias clean of debris and spent flowers.

This prevents "Camellia Petal Blight." Camellia Petal Blight is a disease that causes the center of the flower to rot and turn a rusty color. The best time to prune Camellias is when they are finished flowering.

I would clean out all the dead wood in the center and reduce the top and side growth 12 to 24 inches. Each year, I would repeat the above until you reach the desired size.

Listen to Buzz Bertolero, the Dirt Gardener, Saturdays, 6-8 a.m., on KNBR 68, "The Sports and Gardening Leader." His e-mail address is dirtgarden@aol.com. Visit his web site: www.dirtgarden.com.

days 11:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (except holidays).

The public is invited to use the library and the other Garden Center facilities. For more information call 482-5252.

To reach the
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Advertising
Manager call
339-4046.

days 11:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (except holidays).

The public is invited to use the library and the other Garden Center facilities. For more information call 482-5252.

Events...

Continued from page 20

for the tour; a \$30 ticket includes a boxed lunch. Tickets available the day of the tour are \$25. To purchase advanced tickets or for more information, call 273-9109.

Woodworking enthusiasts shouldn't miss the San Francisco Bay Area Woodworking Show, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fri., Sat. and Sun., April 25, 26 and 27 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, Young California Building, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. in Pleasanton. The show will feature machinery, power and hand tools, seminars, free workshops and more. Call (800) 826-8257 for more information.

The Berkeley Association of Realtors invites you to an Arts and Crafts Fair, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat., April 26 at the association's auditorium, 1553 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way in Berkeley. The fair will benefit the homeless with proceeds donated to Better Opportunities for Self Sufficiency (BOSS), the Chaplaincy to the Homeless and the Women's Daytime Drop-In Center. An exciting array of arts and crafts made by local artisans will include jewelry, hats, greeting cards and pottery. Call Toba Schwartz at 849-3771 or David Kafon at 524-8973 for more information.

Marsh Quick of Red Oak Realty and Karen Ward of CMG Mortgage present Woman to Woman: Finding the Keys to Buying Your Own Home, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sat., April 26 at 1225 Solano Avenue in Albany. Learn how to set priorities and investigate neighborhoods. Team up with industry professionals for an overview of the buying

process, straight talk about interest rates, and strategies for minimizing closing costs. Reservations are required. Call 718-2134.

Park Day School presents Se-Per-Gardens of the East Bay, a tour of ten private gardens, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun., April 27. Enjoy, among others, a Craftsman-style setting with a melodious brook, a personal memoir of the Mediterranean, elements from the original Shilling Spice gardens and a herb garden with a surprise view of The City. Call 653-0317 for reservations and information.

The Merritt College Horticulture Department invites you to its Annual Horticultural Spring Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sat. and Sun., May 3 and 4 at the department, 12500 Campus Drive, Oakland. This year's sale will emphasize rare and unusual perennials and shrubs from around the world. Gourmet vegetable starts, annuals and art for the garden will also be available. Plant experts will be on hand to help with your selections. You are also invited to tour the department's demonstration gardens. Call 436-2418 for more information.

Now is the time to prepare for East Bay Habitat for Humanity's Build-A-Thon fund-raiser, Fri., July 4 through Sun., July 6 and Fri., July 11 through Sun., July 13. Join over 1,000 volunteers who will raise over \$100,000 to pay for building materials for 10 new Habitat homes. Sign up early to be a part of this unique and exciting blitz-build fundraiser. Call Chris at 251-6304 for more information.

A free First-Time Home Buyer Seminar, sponsored by Red Oak Realty and Mortgage Network, 1891

Solano Ave., Berkeley is held the first Wed. of each month at 7 p.m. Find out about first-time home buyer programs, get tips from a licensed Red Oak agent on how to make an offer, negotiate the best deal, handle home inspections; learn about contingencies that may protect a buyer from adverse conditions, and see if it may be more economical to buy rather than to rent. Get prequalified and receive a listing of homes for sale in your price range. Reservations are required. Call Russell Doi at 526-6554 to register or for more information.

Wausau Mortgage Corp. announces Charles Patton's free 203(k) mortgage workshop Rehabilitate for Profit or Equity with a Proven Product. The workshop, which will show you how to use the 203(k) loan program to purchase, renovate and resell property in a short time, is held on an ongoing basis. Call (800) 801-1320, ext. 240 for times and places in your area.

The East Bay Leads Club meets 7:45 a.m. Wednesdays at the Kaiser Center Cafeteria, 300 Lakeside Dr., Oakland. The Leads Club, the largest leads generating organization in the world, is open to all business owners, salespeople, managers and professionals. During weekly 75-minute meetings, each member gives a brief business presentation and exchanges leads collected during the previous week. Call 845-6688 for more information.

For inclusion in Events, send information to Dennis Evansky, Real Estate Editor, Hills Newspapers, 5707 Redwood Rd., Oakland, 94619. Phone: 339-4047 Fax: 339-4066. Information must be received one week prior to publication.

Check out garden club library horticulture and plant books

The Oakland East Bay Garden Center Inc. has a library with emphasis on books on plants, gardening and horticulture. The library has 300 reference books available for use at the library and 900 circulating books that circulate for a period of 30 days.

The books are available to all Bay Area residents for the small annual fee of \$2. The library, located in the Garden Center Building in Lakeside Park, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland, is open Thurs-

days 11:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (except holidays).

The public is invited to use the library and the other Garden Center facilities. For more information call 482-5252.

Kitchen...

Continued from page 19

Children's Center for its counseling services for foster families, Diabetic Youth Foundation for its

camperships, Loaves and Fishes for its surprise nights for homeless children, and Family Resource Network for its training sessions for families with disabled children. Proceeds from this year's tour, boutique and raffle will provide grants for more such worthy programs.

Advance tickets for the tour at \$20; raffle tickets at \$2 each or 6 for \$10. Tickets for the tour and lunch must be purchased by April 17 and are \$30. To purchase tickets by mail, send a check along with a legal-sized self-addressed stamped envelope to: CSL, 6114 LaSalle Ave., Suite 187, Oakland, CA 94611.

Tour tickets are also available at

Mason-McDuffie Real Estate, 342 Highland Ave., Piedmont; Pelago, 6134 Medau Place, Montclair; LaSalle Clock & Weather Co., 3344 Lakeshore Ave.; Surprise!, 4048 Piedmont Ave.; The Gift Horse, 2926 Domingo Ave.; Lazy K House at Orchard Nursery, 4010 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette; and Traditions, 1530 Olympic Blvd., Walnut Creek.

Tickets for the tour are also available at the Piedmont Community Center, 711 Highland Avenue, on the days of the tour for \$25.

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Education Fund to Name Debbie Ojeda Distinguished Citizen at annual banquet

Debbie Ojeda to Receive Distinguished Citizen Award

Friday, May 16, The Ed. Fund held its ninth annual "Teach-Excellence Awards Banquet" at Richmond Convention Center. Funds from the dinner are used to support Ed. Fund migrants and county-wide grants at schools throughout the West Contra Costa School District. Tickets are \$15 for WCCUSD, \$30 for single tickets, \$300 a table of eight.

For tickets, call 233-1464, or send to 1807 Arlington, El Cerrito, 94530.

Future columns I hope to provide the teacher award results in the category of "Teach-Excellence."

She was looking for a role for service to West County Ed. Debbie Ojeda would be a place to start. This year's recipient of the Ed. Fund's "Distinguished Citizen" Award has over 10 years of solid dedication to the children and youth of her community.

She is currently president of Parents in Progress, a parent group serving Tara Hills Elementary school in San Pablo. She simultaneously serves on the Board of the Pinole Middle School and Pinole Valley High School.

Tara Hills, she has also been a member of Progress (VIP) history chair, coordinator of grade culmination activities, drama club coordinator. Tara Hills drama club is completely student run and involves over 125 students every year.

She is truly a great person who is so much to the teachers and students of our school," said Tara Hills principal Bonnie Glover.

Debbie Ojeda's most ideas and activities as typical kinds of projects she has

come up with during her 13 years of service to Tara Hills.

In February of this year, Ojeda implemented a "Random Acts of Kindness Program." Ojeda led the campaign through morning announcements, personal testimonies and walking around the school looking for kind acts.

"The 'Random Acts of Kindness Program' was so successful that we are going to make it an annual tradition at Tara Hills," said Glover. "Random Acts of Kindness really typifies Debbie Ojeda."

In addition to her work with schools, Ojeda has also been active at the Fairmede Alliance Church where she has served as Drama Director and also serves as Parent Coordinator for the Young Actor's Workshop.

Listening to Mrs. Glover describe the work and achievements of Ojeda, it seemed as if 'Random Act of Kindness' really described her ongoing presence at Tara Hills.

Those gifts are most precious which are freely given and Ojeda's service to the children and schools certainly falls in that category.

Congratulations Ms. Ojeda on this award — may your example inspire many others to follow in your footsteps.

Celebrate Earth Day and Help Schools on April 19

Several schools in El Cerrito including Castro (1420 Norwell), Fairmont (715 Lexington) and Harding (7115 C Street) will be hosting cleanup events this coming Saturday, April 19, as part of the citywide celebration of Earth Day. Work parties get underway at 9 a.m. and participants are then invited for a barbecue at the Community Center beginning about 12:30 p.m.

El Cerrito High School will be joining Earth Day festivities with a commemoration of the national PTA's 100th anniversary by doing



■ Teacher Feature

Shop talk with Portola's Steve Severy

By Linda Goldfarb

It's bigger than a bread box and smaller than an airline hanger. It holds enough equipment to build a house (and even a boat). It has an incredible view of the San Francisco Bay just outside its door, and ... it has 28 desks. Welcome to Portola Middle School's industrial arts facility!

"When I was in junior high, I had advisory in this very room," recalls Steve Severy, Portola's industrial arts teacher, as he looks around at the seats now occupied by his students.

Severy is a veteran of the Richmond school system, having attended El Cerrito schools from kindergarten through high school. Recognizing he had a talent for drawing, he enrolled in California College of Arts and Crafts after graduation from El Cerrito High in 1966.

"I thought I was going to be an artist," he said. But Severy quickly realized he wasn't ready for college. He deferred school and joined the Army, spending 19 months of his tour inspecting and repairing heavy trucks in Thailand. Upon his return, he was ready to continue his education and received his teaching credential in Industrial Arts from San Francisco State. He was quickly snapped up by Helms Junior High in San Pablo to teach General Shop.

In Severy's 10th year at Helms, Paul Higley, Portola's shop teacher for 31 years, decided to retire. Higley had recognized Severy's talent for teaching industrial arts when Severy was a student teacher working towards his credential.

"Get Steve here and hire him," Higley suggested to the principal. The next year, Severy began work.

Severy now teaches Beginning and Advanced Shop as well as Architecture/Drafting. Before allowing any fingers near the power tools, his priority is teaching students to work safely. A heavy orange line separates the power tools from the hand tools — "No one crosses that line without permission," says Severy.

Students craft chessboards, tool boxes, clocks, and various other wood and metal projects. As a final activity, his Architecture/Drafting students build a miniature house and at the same time get a lesson in business management. Given a set of plans and a budget, they are instructed to designate the construction crew, buy raw materials, frame, insulate and shingle the house.

To supplement the funds for his classes, Severy has become an inventive fund-raiser. He and his students have done everything from building and selling dog houses made from leftover wood to constructing an authentic El Toro rac-



Steve Severy, Portola's industrial arts teacher, helps his students create everything from tool boxes to clocks and dog houses. He and his students even made a racing dinghy.

ing dinghy

"When I proposed the sailboat project, many thought it overly ambitious," recalls Severy. But with the teacher's encouragement and the students' perseverance and hard work, the class succeeded and the boat was launched from the Richmond Harbor last June.

The West County School District is a family affair for the Severys. Severy's wife, Michelle, teaches kindergarten at Harding Elementary in El Cerrito, and his two children, 7-year-old Mark and 10-year-old Stephanie, are students at Kensington Hilltop School.



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The 11th annual *Secret Gardens of the East Bay* will take place Sunday, April 28, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., rain or shine. Above, 'Potomac Waterworks' from the 1997 *Secret Gardens of the East Bay* garden tour. Call 653-6250 for more information or reservations.

Explore secret gardens of the East Bay

The soothing sounds of a cascading fountain and the flip of a koi tail breaking the surface of a living pond are among the delights to be found on the 11th annual *Secret Gardens of the East Bay* Garden Tour, Sunday, April 27, rain or shine.

Sponsored by Park Day School, an independent K-6 school, proceeds from the tour benefit the school's academic and scholarship programs.

This year's tour consists of 10 private gardens in Oakland, Piedmont and Berkeley. Bicycle touring maps are also available;

carpooling is encouraged. The gardens are not accessible to strollers or wheelchairs.

Tickets are \$30 per person and include a map for a self-guided tour and a booklet providing detailed descriptions of each garden.

Box lunches with iced drinks are available for an additional \$7, and may be picked up at Park Day School anytime during the hours of the tour. Complimentary refreshments will be served at the school during the afternoon. Park Day School is located at 370 43rd St. at Shafter Avenue.

During the lunch hour several noted gardening experts will present talks on campus: Mimi Lubbermann, author of *Little Herb Gardens*, will explain why fresh herbs belong in every garden.

Bob Castellon, past president of the East Bay Bonsai Society, will talk about "Designing Trees to Fit Your Garden," and will explain the basics of spring pruning. Garden designer Suzanne Porter and sculptor John Oldani will present "Water Features 101," covering the fundamentals of this hot topic.

The Secret Gardens of the East

Garden Tour provides an outstanding opportunity to view some of the most distinguished landscapes in California, gardens that are not otherwise open to the public.

Hats or caps and sensible shoes are recommended; sketchbooks and cameras are welcome. In addition to volunteer docents placed at each garden, many of the property owners and landscape designers will be on hand to welcome guests and answer questions.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please call the Garden Tour Hotline at 653-6250.

On-campus job fair

Break out your resume and get into the job-search mode. Contra Costa College will host a Job Fair on campus on Friday, April 18, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the Quad between the library and the Student Association Building.

It is designed primarily for students, but is open to anyone from the public who is seeking employment. There is no charge.

Employers from a cross section of industries throughout the Bay Area will be present. Interested persons are invited to bring their resumes.

sumes to submit for open positions, both for permanent and summer jobs.

Among the employers who will be present are Safeway, Andronico's, Berkeley Marina Marriott, Bill Graham Presents, Target, Office Max, Barnes & Noble, the Richmond Police Department, Noah's Bagels, California Conservation Corps, Bank of America and Home Depot.

For more information, contact John Christensen at 235-7800, extension 344.

Information night at El Cerrito High

El Cerrito High School will hold an information night for the El Cerrito community on Thursday, May 8, in the El Cerrito High School Cafeteria from 7 - 8:30 p.m. Any interested community members

may come and tour El Cerrito High School, and ask questions of administrators, teachers, students and current PTA members.

Contact Allison Syren, 525-0234.

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Albany PTA Council News

Thursday, April 17
7 - 8 p.m., Cornell School
Cornell Open House

Thursday, April 17
7 - 8 p.m. Marin School
Marin Open House

Thursday, April 17
7 p.m., Macgregor
Vista-Macgregor PTA
Topic: TV Turnoff Week, 4/24-4/30

April 23-26
AMS Book Fair
Wednesday: 8:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Thursday 8:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.,
& 6 - 9 p.m.
Friday 8:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Volunteers needed, please call
Gail Williams, 525-5718

Thursday, April 24
7 - 8:30 p.m., AMS

AHS Open House
Monday, April 28
7:30 p.m., Cornell Site
Contact: Charlie B.
8964

Tuesday, April 28
7:30 p.m., Cornell Site
Board of Ed. 14
Topic: Agen...
AUSD Office
Wednesday, April 29
7 p.m., AMS
Topic: PTA /
ing a district-wide
math and language
cycle. Connie H.
rector of Curriculum
speaker. (Call Belinda
2429 with news items,

AHS lifts 'Final Curtain'

On Wednesday, April 23, Albany High School presents its Showcase '97. This event, billed at "The Final Curtain" begins at 6:30 p.m. and continues to 9 p.m.

The entire community is cordially invited to come and learn about Albany High School's many academic and extracurricular activities.

Bruce Downing, the AHS teacher who is again coordinating the event, says that this year's event is designed to enlighten all interested parties.

"We want to give parents and students alike a view of the wide variety of offerings at our high school. Not everyone knows how much we do here," said Downing.

There will be a French Bistro where you can order croissants and watch French language students perform real-life dramas.

Test your scientific knowledge against the AHS Science Bowl team, who will be practicing their famous quick-answer techniques. Biology students will be giving oral reviews of human organ systems.

Astronomy students will be scanning the skies, via computer imagery. Math students will show you

how to use the latest in calculators, an ensemble equipment in today's

In a different mood, Romeo and Juliet will be

places on balcony and

dering the fate of young

The AHS music de

fresh off its Southern

tour, will be performing

Theater.

All interested in

choir, the concert band

and the rock band

should check the sche

And the AHS Gallery

can meet the artists —

viewing.

In addition, an AHS

and an administrator

to answer question

course descriptions to

building.

Extracurricular activi

represented as well. The

Club will show you

our talents.

The Intramural Sp

Doubles Ping Pong Cha

demonstrate their talen

nasium.

New to the Showca

the Book Fair in the sch

Help ou
planet:
and her
how...

Tuesday, April 22
and here are a few noti
tions from the City of San
environmentalists to help
our planet:

Motor Oil Recycling

Recycle motor oil at
Call for a free curbside
collection container. It's
oil and other potentially
hazardous materials out of
waste and solids out of our
gutter and storm drain.

Recycling:

Remember to set out
the curb each week and
garden materials every
call on your regular trash service.
Call for a bin sticker on
brochure.

Adopt-A-Tree:

Beautify Albany neighbor
Choose a tree from a City
list and pay \$37 per tree
(concrete removal). The tree
planted in winter 1997.

Get Out of the Car:

Spring is here and the
great, enjoy it. Keep po
of the air. Car pool, take
ride a bike. It can be said
cycling is the most energ
form of transportation as
can transport one more
unit of energy expended
other method of transport
the world.

Help Clean a Creek:

Attend one or both of the
Clean-Up Events. Refresh
will be provided. Wear old
and bring gloves. On April
a.m. - noon, meet at the El
Creekside Park, north
Street, BBQ to follow. On
10 a.m. - 1 p.m., meet at
Creek on the south side
Cerrito Plaza.

For more information
Albany's Environmental
programs, call the City of
Community Development
Environmental Resources Dep
at 528-5760.

For curbside motor
containers, call West
management of Alameda Count
8710.

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hosts Albany Day
at the Races.**

This means fun for the whole family. Thrill to the heart-pounding excitement of Thoroughbred racing. Enjoy live music and an old fashioned barbecue — with burgers, hot dogs and beer! Plus, the kids will have a blast with the Bounce Machine and more.

**Look for Your
FREE Tickets!**

Two free tickets to Albany Day were mailed to the homes of all residents in Albany and El Cerrito. If you didn't receive your tickets, contact the Albany Chamber of Commerce at (510) 525-1771.

I-80 just north of Berkeley. Use Gilman St. or City of Albany Exit. Also take AC Transit or BART.
(510) 559-7300. First live race 12:45 p.m., Fridays at 6:15 p.m.

Ladbrooke
Racing
Golden Gate Fields
WHERE IT PAYS TO PLAY

Albany looking past this season to next year?

But Lady Cougars' softball team might make playoffs because five of last six games are at home

By Mac Montandon

At first glance it may seem unlikely that this year's Albany softball team will make the playoffs—a spot it narrowly missed last year.

At 1-2 in the Alameda-Contra Costa Athletic League, and 6-6 overall heading into Wednesday's game at Kennedy, the Cougars are off to somewhat of a slow start.

When you realize they rely heavily on a freshman to carry a bulk of the pitching duties, you are tempted to believe that

next year may be the Cougars' year, not this one.

On closer inspection, however, you begin to think it unwise to discount coach Lorine Barker's club for the campaign at hand.

For starters, the freshman in question, Abby McCullough, is no ordinary player.

"She's quite strong," Barker says of her ace. "She throws pretty hard, and she has a real interest in the game. She's been working on weekends, after practices, trying to improve."

Barker expects the team's record and confidence to improve as well

over the next couple weeks in preparation for a big home game against Piedmont on April 30. Piedmont figures to be one of the teams in the middle of the ACCAL pack Albany will battle for one of the six postseason spots.

The Cougars are on the road until then in games against St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth.

"In those games we should have a good chance to get our record improved and gain a little confidence, I hope," the coach said.

The Cougars can be further encouraged by the idea that they could easily have a better record this year

with a few timely hits, as they've lost two games to El Cerrito by a combined three runs. While Albany may be young on the hill, it has several proven players with varsity experience throughout the lineup. Particularly on the infield, these Cougars can rely on senior leadership, and smooth glove play.

Rosey Mejia is a very good defensive catcher, who can also swing the bat well. First baseman Elisa Gassel, Eden King at second and Robin Ball at third provide the Cougars with a solid fielding team that will cohere the club when the pressure mounts in late season games.

"I think the best thing we're doing right now is paying good attention to situations," Barker said. "Offensively and defensively we haven't always made the play, but we've been aware of what play should be made. That indicates we have a solid foundation to work from."

The one area in which the Cougars have struggled this year is consistently putting runners across the plate with a hit. Other than the 21 runs they mustered earlier in the year against Richmond, this club has not yet strung several hits together very often.

Even when it scored 10 in a 12-10 loss to El Cerrito, many of the runs were the result of walks and errors.

"We need to work on our hitting," Barker said simply. "It can be hard in this league because you go from facing someone slow, so you can't get your timing down well."

Albany is looking to have its season timed well by finishing fast. Beginning with the Piedmont game, it plays five of its last six at home. That could serve as the last push the Cougars need to land in the playoffs.

Shoeless jackets' coach walks tall

By Mac Montandon

While watching her team play against last Thursday, Berkeley's lacrosse coach Carrie Buttrick kept removing her shoes. Taking off her clogs, Buttrick more swiftly roamed the side, gaining a better angle on the action.

What she saw was a young team fall for the second time this year to a deeper, more experienced Wildcat club, this time 11-4, but she also thought to make her want to round for a while, building her into a solid, successful team.

"I really want to come back next and build on this one," the coach said recently. "It depends on where I get a teaching job."

Buttrick has already an excellent teaching job with the Yellowjackets, beginning with fundamentals of catching for her younger players. She's inherited a team which undefeated last season, seven significant talents have graduated from that squad.

Buttrick now fields a team that three freshmen who only up a stick for the first time two months ago. Unlike most coaches, however, Buttrick welcomes the challenge of developing players.



Jackets' Deonna Sayles, left, had 6 rebs., teammate Charika Davis grabbed 3 in Bay Bridge Classic.

Shaw, Cook, Jackson in academics hoop game

St. Mary's High's Daniel Shaw and Brendan Cook will join 24 other Bay Area basketball players Saturday in the third annual Academics and Athletics High School Basketball Showcase to be held at St. Mary's College in Moraga.

The brainchild of Chris Rivers, girls basketball coach at St. Joseph High, the all-star game selects boys and girls players based on academic as well as athletic accomplishments. Players are chosen by coaches.

The girls game will start at

5:30 p.m., followed by a 3-point shootout and slam dunk competition, and the boys game at 8 p.m. Partial proceeds from the games go to the Academics & Athletics Scholarship Fund.

This year's participants on the boys side include San Francisco Player of the Year Ali Thomas and Sacred Heart's LyRyan Russell, both of whom have committed to the University of San Francisco.

Shavaki Jackson, the Cal-bound player who led the Berkeley High Yellowjackets to the Division I championship, will

play in the girls game. The 6-foot-3 Shaw averaged 16 points and seven rebounds for St. Mary's while the 6-8 Cook had averages of 14 points and 11 rebounds. Shaw carries a 3.4 GPA and Cook is at 3.0.

Jackson, a 6-4 center with a 3.0 GPA, led the Division I state champion Berkeley Yellowjackets with 22 points and 12 rebounds per game. Jackson will be playing for Cal next year.

St. Mary's Brendan Cook

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St. Mary's Daniel Shaw

Twenty-two past Showcase participants are currently competing at Division I, II, or NAIA programs, including St. Mary's Nate Fripp, a member of NAIA Brigham Young-Hawaii.

In the last two games, the combined GPA for the boys has been 3.0. The girls average has been 3.45.

For more information, call 288-4247.

— John Gardella

last Saturday night. The West Bay came out on top, 77-67, but both Berkeley players contributed to the East Bay's cause. Sayles, who averaged nine points a game in her senior year for the Jackets, started at forward for the east. Sayles finished the game with five points, six rebounds, an assist and a steal.

Davis, a 10-point-per-game performer at Berkeley this past season, played on the second unit, scoring two points and pulling down three boards.

Jackson, who is headed to Cal in the fall will play, however, in the Academics & Athletics High School Basketball Showcase at St. Mary's College in Moraga Saturday night (see related story).



File '97

Berkeley's Shavaki Jackson

Grades Count in this Hoop All-Star Game

Academics & Athletics Prep Showcase
Girls All-Stars 5:30 p.m.
Boys All-Stars 8 p.m.
Saturday, April 19
St. Mary College,
Moraga

Gauchos baseball finally the Gauchos

El Cerrito's club is healthy just in time

By John Gardella

When the El Cerrito High baseball team traveled to Encinal Wednesday to take on the top-ranked team in the area, the Gauchos weren't the same team that started the season with a miserable 2-10 record.

Winners of the last two, the Gauchos were healthy for the first time this season. Donny Davis, the team's star pitcher and EC's starter against the Jets, hadn't been scored

on in 14 innings of Alameda-Contra Costa Athletic League play. Evan Lurie, the team's leading hitter, had missed the last three games with a sprained ankle, but was in the lineup against Encinal.

In other words, over the last week the Gauchos started resembling the team coach Dennis Abel thought he had.

"We're finally healthy," Abel said. "Our arms seem to be in shape. Earlier, we were going with just two pitchers. And we're finally starting to hit the ball."

After losing 10 of their first 12 games, including four straight extra

inning affairs, the Gauchos beat Piedmont and Albany last week. Davis picked up the win against Piedmont, 6-0, throwing a complete-game shutout.

Jarrion White handled Albany and the Gauchos scored double-digit runs in a 11-2 blowout.

Prior to his last two starts Davis had struggled, due to a bruised muscle suffered during the basketball season. "Donny's a battler," said Abel.

Offensively, even with Lurie on the bench, the Gauchos have started hitting. Brandis Langston won him-

See GAUCHOS on page 26



Evan Lurie, left, is back after an ankle injury; Donny Davis' bruised muscle is recovered.

Gauchos drown St. Mary's, Holy Names

B. Lam, B. Wong, Habdas, Shimada lead EC

El Cerrito High's strong swim team flexed its muscle April 8 at its first league meet of the season. Swimming against Alameda-Contra Costa Athletic League rivals St. Mary's and Holy Names, the Gauchos won big in the varsity boys and girls

events, and the junior varsity boys divisions, and narrowly missed a full sweep with the JV girls coming up two points short.

Led by sophomore Bryan Lam and senior Ben Wong and seniors Michelle Habdas and Tia

Shimada for the boys and girls, respectively, EC turned in 17 first place finishes in varsity competition.

"The swimming was outstanding," said Gauchos coach Blythe Lucero. "The swimmers are doing best times across the board."

Several of EC's swimmers are in good position to qualify for North Coast over the next several weeks. The Gauchos have four more dual meets or double dual meets before the ACCAL meet early next month, and NC at the end of May.



Bryan Lam led El Cerrito varsity boys in ACCAL meet

Cal

CAL DIGEST

Baseball team breaks 10-game losing streak

Cal's baseball team defeated No. 12 USC, 7-5, Sunday at Evans Diamond. Bolstered by the strong hitting of Ivan Lewis, Brian Oliver and Juan Hernandez — and the outstanding fielding of Curtis Johnson — the Bears were able to hold on for the win over the Trojans.

Cal (16-27, 3-18 Pac-10, Six Pac), which had entered the three-game series with a 10-game conference losing streak, was able to win two of three against SC. The Bears defeated the Trojans, 3-2, Friday and lost, 5-2, Saturday.

Sunday, senior third baseman Lewis got Cal on the scoreboard first in the second with a three-run homer off SC starter Scott Henderson. It was Lewis' only second home run of his college career. The Bears were able to score another run in the third on a passed ball by Trojans' catcher Eric Munson, scoring Oliver and giving Cal a 4-0 lead.

SC came back in the fifth on a three-run double by Greg Walbridge to make the score 4-3.

Cal was able to muster three more runs in the sixth, with the big hits being Johnson's RBI single on a bunt and Lewis' two-run single up the middle.

The Trojans were able to come back again when Jason Brown hit a two-run homer off Cal reliever Jim Vorhis in the seventh. Vorhis (3-3) was able to get out of the seventh, and pitched a perfect eighth to salvage the win.

Freshman Jon Cuccias earned his second save of the season by pitching the ninth allowing one hit.

The Bears received a solid pitching effort from freshman starter Brad Steele (4.3 innings, five hits, three runs, three walks). Lewis finished the day 2-for-4 with a career high five RBI. Oliver was 2-for-4 and Hernandez was 3-for-3. Johnson had several long running catches in center field, including a shot hit by SC's Wes Rachels to leadoff the ninth.

The Bears travel to Arizona State

for a three-game series beginning Friday.

Women's water polo to host WRQT

The No. 3 women's water polo team (23-6) fell to No. 1 ranked and defending national champion UCLA, 8-6, Sunday in the championship match of the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Tournament in Santa Barbara.

Cal and UCLA were tied, 6-6, going into the final period, but the Bruins scored twice in the fourth quarter for the win.

In the championship match, the Bears were led by Alisa von Hartitzsch's three goals.

Cal reached the finals by defeating UC Santa Barbara, 13-3; losing to UCLA, 10-4, and defeating Stanford, 5-4, in the semifinal.

Following the championship game, von Hartitzsch, who scored 11 goals in the tournament and has an impressive 89 goals of the season, was named MPSF Northern Division Player of the Year, while teammate Evi Schuller was named

Goalie of the Year. Maureen O'Toole was named Coach of the Year.

The Bears will next host the Western Regional Qualifying Tournament, April 25-27 at Speiker Aquatic Complex. The top seven teams from that tournament automatically qualify for the national championships, May 8-11, in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Last season, Cal gave UCLA its only loss of the season in the finals of the WRQT. The Bruins' only loss this season was a 4-3 loss to the Bears, Feb. 15 at the UC San Diego Invitational.

Women's netters beat Arizonans

On April 11, the women's tennis team defeated No. 8 Arizona State, 5-4, in Berkeley. The Bears picked up big wins from Nos. 1-3 including Amanda Augustus' 6-2, 6-3 upset of 18th-ranked Reka Cseresnyes. Francesca La'o and Knox each needed three sets before emerging victoriously and Curran added a win at No. 5 and the Bears

entered doubles play with a 4-2 advantage. La'o and Knox sealed the win for Cal with a 8-4 win at No. 2 doubles.

The No. 11 Bears swept 14th ranked University of Arizona, 6-0, the following day improving to 14-6, 4-4 in the Pac-10 Southern Division on the year. Augustus picked up her second win over a Top 10 player in the last 10 days as she defeated No. 5 Vicki Maes in play at No. 1 singles.

La'o also picked up a strong win with her straight set victory over No. 35 Karen Goldstein. Because the outcome had been decided at the end of singles competition, doubles matches were not played.

Men's gymnasts in NCAAs

The No. 2 men's gymnastics team travels to the NCAA Championships April 17-19 in Iowa City, Iowa. There, the Bears beat heads with Ohio State, Oklahoma, Stanford, Penn State, and Iowa.

Coming out of obscurity in 1996 to finish as the runner-up to the Buckeyes at last year's national

championships, the team has been on a mission.

"This season, we're only one team away from coach Barry Williams' goal to prove that we're the best in the nation and we're going to get it on."

Men's tennis to play in NCAAs

The men's tennis team continues to fight through the season as the season gets closer. The Bears (9-9) are 10th in the Southern Division and turned mixed results over the last few weeks.

Most recently, the team pair of matches on April 11, 1997, drew even at 9-9 with a 4-3 victory over Arizona State, before suffering a 4-3 loss to Arizona on April 12.

Through it all, the team has emerged as one of the most consistent performing teams in the country, capturing five of their last six matches.

Jackie Shrieve Cal VB assistant

Stephanie Shrieve, a Berkeley High graduate and former head coach of the 1994 girls volleyball team, has been named an assistant volleyball coach at Cal.

Shrieve, 26, a former Cal State Fullerton volleyball player, has been the head coach for Bear Junior Volleyball for two seasons. She was an assistant coach and assistant director of the Pacific Coast Junior Volleyball Club in Costa Mesa and head coach of the Orange County Volleyball Club.

Shrieve was a four-year letterwinner at Berkeley, including a 1994 national champion as captain for two years and a two-year-ton squad.

She is Berkeley's all-time leading scorer with 3,388 points and a career service ace record of 1,000. She has career block assists of 1,784.

"I'm very happy that Jackie is joining our staff," said head coach Sue Williams. "She will add a lot of energy and knowledge to our program and provides a good balance to our staff."



Jeff Lindquist

Harmon gives up the ghost; ground is broken for Haas Pavilion

Cal basketball players Michael Stewart, far right, and Kenyon Jones, hand a basketball net to Evelyn Haas, as outgoing Cal chancellor Chang-Lin Tien looks on. The occasion was the groundbreaking ceremonies at Harmon Gym last Wednesday, as the school prepares to tear down Harmon and build a 12,000 seat facility, to be called the Haas Pavilion, which is scheduled to be ready in two years. Evelyn Haas is the widow of Walter Haas, whose family seeded the project with a gift of \$10 million.

THE WINE FILE



ALAN GOLDFARB

This is a glass that is more than half full

After all these years I've just learned that no matter how deep a whiff I took of the wine in my glass, nor how much effort I put into swirling and sloshing, I've never enjoyed the wine as I could have.

I'm now spoiled for the rest of my life, and I'll never drink wine again the way I drank wine from Georg Riedel's \$25 Pinot Noir glass.

I recently had this sophisticated, erudite, handsome, and somewhat stuck-up Austrian, whose family has been making glass since 1756, as a guest on my radio show.

Riedel's company makes gorgeously thin, long-stemmed glasses specifically for individual varieties of wine. There is a glass for sauvignon blanc. There's a glass for chardonnay, and another for cabernet.

Pooh, pooh, you might be saying. A glass is a glass. You pour the wine in, you swirl it around like you know what you're doing, you sniff it like some wiseguy, and you kick it around in your mouth as if you're playing pinball.

Not with Georg Riedel's glasses. Not at seven bucks a pop (for the cheapest glasses), all the way up to the \$80 glasses only pinball wizards can afford.

So, when I invited Riedel to come on my show (Saturdays, noon to 1 p.m., KECG 88.1 FM, plug, plug), I told his P.R. flack I was going to bring my glasses to the studio and compare them to Georg's.

See WINE on page 27



Albany tennis tourney mixes and then matches

The City of Albany Recreation Department hosted a mixed doubles tennis tournament last weekend. A total of 17 teams participated. There were two divisions 7.0 and 8.0. The winners of the first division were Bob Scherer and his daughter Cori Bertucio, top left. Runners up in that division were Jean Wong and Chandler Lai, top right. Winners of the 7.0 consolation division were Phuong Le and Duong Tran. Shirley Watkins and Alex Whang won the 8.0 division, while the runners up were Angel Balaing and Rita Trachuk. Winners of the 8.0 consolation division were Beverly Strickland and Denui Meals, bottom right. Also pictured are Cindy Podren and Jim Seid, bottom left.

Coach

Continued from page 25

Berkeley's game in an attempt to accelerate the process of improving the younger players for subsequent seasons.

Co-captains Sarah Schooley and Kai Ouye and attacker Safiya Moore control the action for the Jackets from endline to endline.

Schooley continually circles the opposition's goal, looking for a cutter — often Moore. Michelle Charpentier or center Claudia Sims. When none appears open, she has the ability to penetrate for a shot. Twice against St. I., Schooley twisted her way past a defender from behind the Wildcat goal, then delivered scores with a no-look, behind-the-back shot.

Over the weekend, Moore exploded on the offensive end, scoring six times in one contest and three in another. Her battering of the back of the goal prompted

Buttrick to announce that much when Safiya had a game, we do well.

Ouye, for her part, has done something twice this season that her coach can't recall seeing before. After making a check, the speedy defender raced the length of the court to score two goals in separate games.

Last Thursday, Ouye took the ball from a Wildcat in her own territory only to race the other direction for a goal.

Following Ouye's success, from the sideline was Safiya, whose bare feet crunched on the artificial turf of Berkeley's stadium. Clearly doing whatever it takes to enhance her performance, Buttrick's example was taking to her young players.

Saturday the Jackets' Robert Louis Stewart and Monterey in hopes of a coach even more experienced than Buttrick.

Gauchos

Continued from page 25

self a spot in the outfield and promptly went 4-for-5 in last week's games. Skyler Turtle also had four hits.

"It's nice when you lose your leading hitter (Lurie) and can still

score runs." Abel said.

The Gauchos also had a 10-inning, 10-0, no-hitter.

"Through the losing, the kids on the field were playing good club ball," Abel said.

CLASSIFIED

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Upholstery*	945
Window Cleaning*	946
Word Processing*	949
Writing/Editing*	950

*Prepayment Required

MasterCard and Visa Accepted

TRANSPORTATION

101 Autos

ALL Autos Wanted Full Internal Revenue Service Tax Deduction for 1997 to help the Homeless Children Please call us at 415-871-0865 We need Vans, Cars, RV's, Trucks Thank you.

BUY CARS FOR \$100

Seized and sold locally. Trucks, 4x4's etc. 1-800-522-2730 ext 2714.

CADILLAC Sedan Ville, 1988 4.1 liter automatic, V8, air conditioning, power steering/ windows, 100,000 miles, \$3500 firm 769-7505, or leave message 521-1084

CAMARO 228 IROC, 1987. T-tops, loaded New paint, automatic. Excellent condition, \$6500 or best offer 422-2903

CLASSIC- 228 IROC, 1987. Malibu Chevelle, Immaculate, excellent, mileage 521-350 engine. One owner Asking \$3500 865-5926

DODGE Dynasty, 1993. Fully loaded, 55K miles, always garaged, excellent condition \$10,000/ best offer 420-0964

FORD Mustang, 1980, good condition, 70,000 miles, sun roof, 2V engine. One owner \$1200 769-9220, evenings

HONDA Accord LX 1984, 4-door, automatic, 45,000 miles, all power, sun roof, alarm, \$15,000 415-954-7659

HONDA Prelude, 1985. Red, 5 speed, 129K miles, good condition, well-maintained, \$3200 564-0673

HONDA Accord, 1985, white, beauty, runs excellent, \$3800 531-3656

JEEP Wrangler, 1990, V-6, hard top/ soft top, 119,000 freeway miles. New brakes, battery, tires, U-joints. Smogged. Excellent. \$7500 724-6567

LINCOLN Towncar, 1985, white beauty, runs excellent, \$3800 531-3656

NISSAN Stanza wagon, 1986, 74,000 miles. Needs paint! \$1800 best offer Call Jon 654-1884, evenings

PORSCHE 914, 1976, 2 liter, original owner, all records, 80,000 miles on rebuilt engine, new clutch, like new; \$5900 724-6567

SATURN SL2 4 door sedan, 1993. Air conditioning, automatic transmission, ABS power brakes/ steering/ windows/ locks, stereo cassette, Clifford auto alarm 40,000 miles, \$8,000 865-0626

SEIZED CARS FROM \$175

Porsches, Cadillacs, Chevys, BMW's, Corvettes Also Jeeps, 4 Wheel Drives. Your area. Toll free 1-800-218-9000, ext. A-7057 for current listings

YAMAHA Trailway motorcycle, 1987. Low mileage, good condition. Call 522-6264

BULLETIN BOARD

As a community service, The Hills Newspapers is pleased to offer Found, Giveway and Lost ads free of charge (maximum 15 words for 2 weeks)

201 Announcements

BOY Scout uniforms. Clean out the closet and recycle them to help youngsters. Leave at The Montclairon office, 5707 Redwood Rd, #4, El Cerrito, CA 94530

AT work, you think of the children you have left at home. At home, you think of the work you have left unfinished. Let "Time Associates" help. Call 652-7154.

LOOKING for host family. Brother and sister from Taiwan, ages 15/16. Will pay \$1000/month room and board 758-5119

AT work, you think of the children you have left at home. At home, you think of the work you have left unfinished. Let "Time Associates" help. Call 652-7154.

ADMINISTRATIVE Assistant: Clean out the closet and recycle them to help youngsters. Leave at The Montclairon office, 5707 Redwood Rd, #4, El Cerrito, CA 94530

ADMINISTRATIVE, PART-TIME: Hotel Business Center, 21-26 hours. Three weekdays 7:45 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday mornings. Must be: MSword customer service, fast learner, office experience. Please: Home experience, Windows 95, willingness to fill extra shifts. Up to \$10/hour. Long-term opportunity. Fax letter or resume: 848-6208 or call 649-1871

ADVERTISING CLERK

Entry level position to assist our busy Classified Department. Must type 30-35 wpm, computer knowledge helpful. Part-time, 12 hours weekly flexibility a plus, days only. Application at counter, Alameda Journal, 1516 Oak Street, Alameda. No calls please

ALAMEDA MEDICAL GROUP seeking qualified:

BUSINESS Service Rep., entry level, knowledge of medical insurance and coding, data entry, and other medical business functions

MEDICAL Assistant, 1-2 years experience, must be flexible, skills in both front and back office production, computer, telephone, fax, word processor, etc.

PATIENT Relations Rep., 1-2 years experience, heavy patient contact. Strong interpersonal skills, experience in medical billing and basic business service skills

Send resume to: Alameda Medical Group, 501 South Shore Center, Alameda, or fax to: 510-544-4919, Attention manager

ASSISTANT IN dynamic gallery serving high-end clientele. Good with people. Some lifting. California driver's license required. \$8.75 plus bonus to 120 hours/ week. Flexible, evenings, weekends. Application at counter, Alameda Journal, 1516 Oak Street, Alameda. No calls please

ASSISTANT Secretary phone computer, and accounting skills for office work. Cartoucheries speaking preferred (510) 527-8777

BAKING Assistant, part-time 8- 16 hours/ week Day and evening shifts available. Requires stamina and some lifting. \$7-\$9 hourly. 540-1941.

BIOMEDICAL firm needs detail-oriented, full-time team players to meet deadlines. Must be organized with strong communication skills

ADMINISTRATIVE, SECRETARIAL, DATA ENTRY, COMPUTER, FAX, MAIL, TELEPHONE, FAX, ETC.

RECEPTIONIST/ SECRETARY: Strong phone skills. Knowledge of word processing, spreadsheets, databases, etc. Good communication skills. Must be able to type 30 wpm. Fax or mail resume and cover letter to: Ms. Tucker Fax (510) 562-1859, INR 5801 Christie Ave #400, Emeryville, CA 94608

BOOKKEEPER to run small construction company, quarterly reporting. Oakland Hills Quick Books. TaxPro experience required. Permanent, part-time, flexible hours. Fax resume to: 482-1638 then call 482-1600.

CAKE Decorator, full-time Apply at Merritt Bakery, 203 East 18th Street, Oakland

CAKE CENTER: Telephone REPS

Smiling voices wanted to take and dispatch messages and inbound orders on a computer-based system for professional clientele. Day, Swing and Gravayer shifts including weekends. Minimum 30-wk. commitment \$1500-\$1800 per month. Fax resume to: 482-1638 then call 482-1600.

COAT, CAT, GRAY/WHITE CHEST, SHORT HAIR, BLACK, WHITE, SPOTTED, ETC.

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725 1 BED. APT. RENTALS
Oakland & Piedmont

\$695 ONE bedroom, near Piedmont. Walk-in closet, balcony, garage, dishwasher, garbage disposal. \$1396

\$695 PIEDMONT Avenue, Piedmont border. Large Good kitchen. Trees. Covered garage. Laundry. 655-0174

705 LUXURY LIVING

295 Lee St. Spacious 1 bedroom. Quiet and quality, modern convenience, deck, walk-in, A/EK. Best Adams Point location. Must See! Call 465-3046

\$725-800 CHARMING, large apartments, great location, hardwood floors, appliances. Must see 465-7500

\$725 BEAUTIFUL 1 bedroom in great turn-of-the-century building. Lots of storage and sunlight, hardwood floors. Must utilities including cable. Near station and transportation. 839-7329

\$725 DIAMOND Park. Sunny 1 bedroom. Hardwood floors, fireplace, laundry. Off-street parking. Near transportation. 420-8933

\$730 ROCKRIDGE 1 bedroom. Top floor, bay view, cool laundry. Broadway/ Merita #11062-B Homefinders 549-6450

750 ATTRACTIVE BUILDING

Spacious, quiet, clean 1 bedroom. Cathedral ceiling, new carpets, garage, balcony. 465-5854

\$750 GARDEN apartment, new carpet/ paint, off Lakeshore. 655-5007

\$750 MONTCLAIR, quiet In-Law, garden patio, five minutes from Redwood Park, easy walk to village. Plus utilities. No pets. Non-smoking 420-8442

\$775 GLENVIEW 1 bedroom. Large kitchen/ living room, sunny bay windows. 4353 Park Blvd 351-5175 after 5 p.m.

\$795 TRESTLE Glen. Charming 1 bedroom, spacious, flat. Quiet street. Close to transportation. 415-324-8057

\$805 ADAMS Point, small quiet building, 1 bedroom, nearly new, walk-in closet, large porch overlooking courtyard, secure parking, alarm system, laundry. 510-832-4071 evenings, 415-436-0500 days

\$850 FUNKY tower cottage. Hardwoods, 2 baths, tile, garage. Pets? 2908 Park Blvd 420-1676.

\$850 UPPER Grand 1+ bedroom, fireplace, hardwoods, appliances, laundry. Near transportation, stairs. Cat okay. 601-1666

\$975 OLDER, beautiful 1 bedroom, hardwood floors, parking, laundry, park view 473 Elita. Belvedere next to Lake. 832-1888 ext 34

\$975 ONE bedroom condo, appliances, fireplace, washer/dryer, view, deck, pool, central heat, carpets, drapes. Upper Keller Ave. area. 700 Canyon Oaks HMC. 464-4854

FREE first month's rent. Large remodeled 1 bedroom, new kitchen! bath. \$540. Near Highland Hospital and Highway 1-80. 261-3467.

726 2 BED. APT. RENTALS
Oakland & Piedmont

\$460 NORTH Oakland. Big kitchen (no living room). 420-49th. Cat negotiable. BART 565-5890

\$675 TWO bedrooms, 1 bath in fourplex with garage. Newish carpet and paint. Includes water and garbage. No pets. Drive by 916 MacArthur Agent May 331-7010

\$675 TWO bedroom. In great neighborhood. 634 Oak and Ave near Bayo Vista and Grand Ave. building under management. 464-4621.

725 UPPER HARRISON

3779 Harrison. Cozy 2 bedroom near Grand, Piedmont Ave. Deck, parking, water, garbage and fresh carpet and paint! Call 531-6969

\$725 TWO bedroom, modern secure building, Laurel District on Maybelle. Dishwasher, deck, off street parking. Call Brett, 531-7575 ext 351.

\$750-875 EXCELLENT Piedmont border location. Spacious, sunny, new carpets. Private balcony. Parking, laundry. 428-1242.

\$750 CHARMING, Mills College area. Trees, garden, carpet, laundry. Cat okay. Near freeways, transit. 562-8963

\$750 PIEDMONT Ave and Grand Ave. convenience, 2 bedroom, 1400 sq ft., Victorian flat, formal and casual dining, hook-ups, no pets 664-7685

\$775 OAKLAND Hills, quiet, 2 bedroom, wall-to-wall carpet. Garage, laundry. 4316 Riles Way. (510) 536-1575.

\$800 SPACIOUS 2 bedroom, 2 baths, fireplace, patio, garage. Rose Garden area. 653-4447

\$825 HOMEY! Spacious! Immaculate! Newly Painted. Decorated Kitchen. Quiet. Back Patio-Garden. Off Lincoln. 635-4410.

\$825 TWO bedroom, near Grand Lake Theater, new paint and carpeting, with exterior balcony. 451-3284

\$830 MORMON Temple area. Large, sunny 1 bath. Hardwood floors, gas stove, new kitchen 482-5077

\$850 CENTRAL ADAMS POINT

365 Wanwick. Spacious 2 bedroom. Elevator, coin laundry. Fresh carpet and paint. Call 465-0969

\$850 301 JAYNE, near Lake Merritt 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. First floor with patio, parking and new carpet. Agent 523-1166

\$850 CLOSE to Piedmont Avenue, small Victorian building. Top off. Hardwoods, fireplace, dishwasher, parking, laundry. 95 Moss Ave 510-339-1451

\$850 PENTHOUSE near Lake. Secure 2 bedrooms, parking, patio. New paint/ carpet. View Deposit 452-3255

\$850 PIEDMONT border, 2 bath, spacious top floor, A/EK, carpet, laundry, parking. 3815 Harrison St. 569-0165

\$875 ATTRACTIVE DUPLEX

Two bedroom, 1 bath. Large living, separate dining. Boden Way. No pets, non-smoking, available May 8th. 510-653-0227; 415-435-2544.

\$900 NEAR PIEDMONT AVE.

Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, balcony, parking. 95 Linda Ave. 841-5979

\$925 CONDOMINIUM near Piedmont. Cozy, architecturally exciting, privacy. Deck, dishwasher, 473 Jean (Santa Clara). 272-1888 ext 34.

\$950 TWO bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace, carpet, freshly painted, secure parking, laundry. Ready for move-in. 500-1005

\$985 GLENVIEW duplex, 2 bedrooms. Washer/dryer. Dishwasher. Garage. Nice yard. 482-1662

\$1000 CHARMING 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 1500 sq ft. townhouse near Mormon Temple. Cathedral ceiling, fireplace, balcony, hill view, greenhouse window, plantation shutters, washer/dryer, dishwasher, garage. 283-5301

\$1150 GLENVIEW Victorian, huge 2 bedroom penthouse, parking, laundry. Cat okay. All utilities. 483-1416

\$1245 TWO bath, Piedmont area, sunny upper, 3933 Harrison. New carpets, verticals, 5 large closets, 1150 plus 125 ft. balcony, tile kitchen. No dog. 420-0406

\$1300 TWO plus bedrooms, 1 bath, ground floor, older fully remodeled. Parking. 473 Elita. Belvedere near Lake. 832-1888 ext 34.

\$1500 MAGNIFICENT renovated Victorian Fire station with brass pole, 2 bedrooms, 1550 sq ft, laundry, parking. Live-work. 339-9265 ext 242

727 3+ BED. APT. RENTALS
Oakland & Piedmont

\$1200 MORMON Temple. Remodeled 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. New carpet, paint. 2925 Carmel Open April 15, 6-9 p.m. 268-9028

COTTAGES FOR RENT

741 Oakland & Piedmont

\$550 SMALL 1 bedroom. Recarpeted. Carpets, appliances, pine trees. 830 East 23rd Street. 465-9718, weekdays

\$625 PRETTY, quiet, 1+ bedroom cottage. Laurel District above MacArthur. Pets okay. May 1st. 531-9840

\$675 PIEDMONT, small, charming, private 1 bedroom. Must see. Includes utilities, washer/dryer. 465-3942

\$725-800 CHARMING, large apartments, great location, hardwood floors, appliances. Must see 465-7500

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\$1500 MAGNIFICENT renovated Victorian Fire station with brass pole, 2 bedrooms, 1550 sq ft, laundry, parking. Live-work. 339-9265 ext 242

729 3 BED. APT. RENTALS
Oakland & Piedmont

\$1200 TWO bath, remodeled 2 story, washer/dryer, family room, appliances, elegantly designed large rear yard, formal dining room, garage. 661 42nd St. HMC. 549-6450

\$1300 REDWOOD Heights 1 bath, plus office, fully remodeled, large yard, garage. Pets okay. Non-smoking. Includes P&G. May 1st. 707-967-9585

\$1650 TWO bedroom, 1 1/2 baths. Custom built, large view, minimum 2 year lease. Fireplace, decks, beamed ceilings. All goodies, many extras. 531-2273 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

\$1650 PIEDMONT border, 2 bath, spacious top floor, A/EK, carpet, laundry, parking. 3815 Harrison St. 569-0165

\$1750 ATTRACTIVE DUPLEX

Two bedroom, 1 bath. Large living, separate dining. Boden Way. No pets, non-smoking, available May 8th. 510-653-0227; 415-435-2544.

\$1900 NEAR PIEDMONT AVE.

Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, balcony, parking. 95 Linda Ave. 841-5979

\$2250 CHARMING 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 1500 sq ft. townhouse near Mormon Temple. Cathedral ceiling, fireplace, balcony, hill view, greenhouse window, plantation shutters, washer/dryer, dishwasher, garage. 283-5301

\$2400 PIEDMONT border, 2 bath, spacious top floor, A/EK, carpet, laundry, parking. 3815 Harrison St. 569-0165

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\$2400 PIEDMONT border, 2 bath, spacious top floor, A/EK, carpet, laundry, parking

Gardening

922 Home Services

CRABTREE GUTTER

Gutter/ roof cleaning. Roof/ gutter repair. Drain/ gutter replacement. In areas 10 years. Free estimates. Al Crabtree 510-482-8823

TROUBLE With Old Windows? Broken glass, painted shut, seals cords missing? Experienced craftsmen at low rates! Call Jim, 760-9454

923 Housecleaning & Janitorial Services

ENVIRONMENTALLY AWARE

ANNE'S TOXIC FREE CLEANING

Organizing Specialist

Professional, meticulous job
Prompt, reliable, affordable

Home/Voice Mail 234-5349

RELIABLE housekeeping. Bonded, experienced, thorough. Licensed weekly, bi-weekly, vacuums, references. Marie or Merle, 530-9599

COMPLETE domestic services. Housecleaning, window, yard, hauling. Mature, reliable couple. References, 527-8306; page 970-0740.

SPOTLESS Housecleaning: Efficient, honest, experienced, references, reasonable. Residential, commercial, offices. Free estimates. Call 510-524-1551

HOUSECLEANING: Reliable, reasonable, satisfaction guaranteed. Attention to detail! Bonded! Call 800-952-4457. Ask about laundry services!

WE do it ALL! WASHINGS Apartments, houses, commercial. Carpet cleaning. Construction clean-up. Reasonable prices. Free estimates. 30 years experience. 547-8767

IBC HOUSECLEANING

Let us help you keep your house clean. For free estimate please call Ivan 510-528-9393. References available.

QUALITY Housecleaning. Experienced with excellent references. Trustworthy, efficient and reliable. Weekly or bi-weekly. Ann 465-4121

VERY DETAILED HOUSECLEANING

6 hours for \$60. Please call 558-9039.

HONEST housecleaning services. Excellent work with good references. We provide own cleaning supplies. Call 923-0388

TRUDI'S Housecleaning service, weekly, bi-weekly, once a month and move-outs. Bonded/ Licensed 533-0912

VALENCIA'S Complete Cleaning Service. Experienced, excellent references, weekly, bi-monthly, special occasions. Free estimates. Rita, 510-536-0569

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Police

Continued from page 2

someone had taken his cellular phone while he was standing in line at the Wells Fargo bank between 1:35 p.m. and 1:45 p.m. April 4.

A 1988 Toyota 4-Runner was reported stolen in the 8200 block of Terrace Drive between 11:30 p.m. April 7 and 11:30 a.m. April 8.

Someone attempted to start a 1990 Hyundai Excel by jimmieing the ignition in the 1100 block of Contra Costa Boulevard between April 3 and 8.

A Richmond man was arrested for taking consumables from a van belonging to Church's Chicken at 4 p.m. April 4; the suspect gave a false name during booking.

A briefcase was reported stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked in the 10100 block of San Pablo Avenue on the evening of April 3. Electronic and miscellaneous items were taken from a car parked in the 500 block of Bonnie Drive overnight April 1. At Eureka and Ashbury, someone punched the lock of a vehicle and took miscellaneous items sometime during the day on April 7.

CDs and change were taken from

a car parked in the 300 block of Carmel Avenue April 2 or 3. A CD player and discs were taken from a vehicle parked in the 2000 block of Tapscott overnight April 9.

Someone attempted to take a stereo from a vehicle parked in a bank lot in the 10400 block of San Pablo Avenue at 3 p.m. April 9.

An attempted entry into a car was reported in the 6700 block of Hagen Boulevard April 5 or 6; nothing was reported stolen. Nothing was taken from a car parked in the 6500 block of Hagen Boulevard overnight April 3. The glovebox was ransacked, and an attempt was made to remove the in-dash stereo, but nothing was taken.

Another attempted auto burglary was reported in the 2600 block of Tulare overnight March 31. A window was broken and the door opened; nothing was stolen. The car was parked in a residential driveway.

Someone dented the fender of a vehicle parked in the 400 block of Colusa April 2 or 3.

Police responded to four domestic incidents.

A bike and a disabled parking placard were turned in to the lost and found.

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SENIOR LIVING

St. Paul's Towers Pioneers New Seniors Fitness Program with Oakland YMCA

At St. Paul's Towers in Oakland, many active retired men and women are excited

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downtown Oakland YMCA. The "St. Paul's Towers at the Y" program includes supervised water and fitness activities for residents. These exercise programs offer many health benefits and are ideal methods of improving and maintaining good physical and mental well-being.

For a nominal fee St. Paul's Towers residents who elect to participate in the program have the opportunity to use the YMCA's six-lane, 25-meter swimming pool as well as all the other extensive fitness facilities at the Y. A full schedule of senior water and fitness classes, offered throughout the week, is open exclusively to seniors from St. Paul's Towers and the YMCA. Door-to-door transportation

from St. Paul's Towers to the YMCA and back offers participants added convenience.

YMCA fitness instructors will work with each of the new St. Paul's Towers members to help them develop an exercise program to meet their individual goals in a safe, fun and effective manner. Depending on individual experience and preferences, residents can select from classes in water aerobics or water walking. In addition, there is also the freedom to enjoy uninstructed lap swimming. For those who are beginning an exercise program, a special "Sit and Be Fit" class is a safe and effective way to prepare for higher intensity activities.

This new program is just one

of the many components of the active lifestyle residents enjoy at St. Paul's Towers. Frequently scheduled social and cultural activities also contribute to a superior quality of life. The proximity of this vital community to some of the Bay Area's best museums, theaters and music venues makes it an ideal location for those who enjoy and value these cultural resources.

A carefree, independent lifestyle at St. Paul's Towers includes numerous conveniences that make full life care retirement living extremely appealing. One of the most significant features is a lifetime health care program. Additionally, residents are served three delicious meals daily in an open and gracious

dining room. Other amenities such as weekly housekeeping and laundry services, the free time to pursue hobbies and interests that are personally fulfilling and enriching.

The excellent management experienced at St. Paul's Towers, in conjunction with the pre-planned lifetime program, has made St. Paul's Towers an ideal choice for retired individuals.

For more information, call 510-893-2998. St. Paul's Towers, to go on a personal tour, or to make an appointment open house, call Karon Sullivan at 510-893-8542.

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Our community is conveniently located close to shopping areas, recreational centers and all the excitement of downtown Oakland and San Francisco.

Learn more about the

exciting lifestyle at Grand Lake Gardens, call Sandi Bethune today at 510-893-3329.

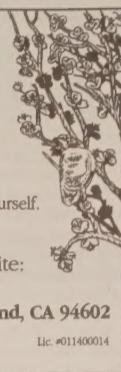
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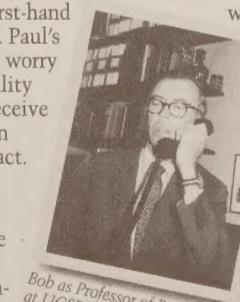
—Dr. M. Robert Harris, M.D., Professor Emeritus, UCSF.
St. Paul's Towers resident since 1986.

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As a retired physician, Bob Harris knows first-hand the many benefits of full Life Care living at St. Paul's Towers. He and his fellow residents never need worry about the availability and affordability of quality medical care. Because they know they will receive comprehensive care on site, or hospitalization when needed, as part of their Life Care contract.

A community of friends.

Bob enjoys the company of his friends and neighbors at St. Paul's Towers. He socializes when he



Bob as Professor of Psychiatry
at UCSF in 1959.

wants to and still enjoys the privacy of his spacious apartment overlooking Lake Merritt.

Bob's passion is gardening and he can be found tending to his flowers daily in the terrace garden just outside St. Paul's Towers' gracious dining room.

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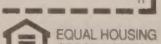
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Buttons

Continued from front page

tion of a 93-year-old woman who'd carefully recorded all the information she had on each piece: an "1850 plain back Liberty Head," for example, and "Goodyear American" buttons from 1850, 1851 and 1860. There were 100 cards, some holding 30 to 40 buttons each.

But no one can compete with him when it comes to what are more strictly defined as "vintage" buttons. Two walls in the shop are stocked with hundreds of buttons dating from the 1900s to the 1940s, all on their original cards. Two others are filled with buttons from the '50s and '60s. Not to mention drawers filled with buttons sorted by color and material, and a stock room packed to the rafters with boxes and boxes of inventory.

Sortile estimates he has a stock totaling 10 million.

It's truly a unique place, and one that's been nationally covered in various needlework and crafting magazines. (It's even listed on the InterNet under "Buttons," though Sortile doesn't know how it got there!)

Still, Sortile's found that some people just haven't heard of him.

One woman met a visitor from Los Angeles on a plane and asked her where in Southern California she'd found the beautiful buttons she was carrying with her. She told her they were from El Cerrito.

"I told her she was mistaken," the woman said to Sortile when she visited the store herself the next day. "I live just around the corner, and I never knew it existed."

It's a common story among locals, though the shop's been open on San Pablo Avenue several days a week for the past 16 years.

It took Sortile some time to decide just what his life calling actually was. He started out as a barber, working alongside his brother in his parents' Berkeley shop. It was 40 years ago.

"I didn't like it," Sortile remembers. "Any time anyone came into the shop, we'd start talking and I'd ask them about what they did. When I said I thought I might like doing that, they'd introduce me to their boss."

Sortile's barber shop conversations led to a number of job-tries, but they didn't last.

"I'd do it for a year or two, and then I'd quit," he says. "Then I'd go back to the shop."

Eventually, he and Mary ended up in the dry cleaning business together. She ran the business on Gilman Street; he operated a press shop in San Leandro. A chance meeting with a button distributor changed his life.

The distributor had noticed some cloth-covered buttons made by a local seamstress while at the cleaning establishment. He asked where he could find more for distribution to the variety shops he serviced.

"Who buys buttons?" Sortile asked him.

"Here's my card," was the response. "Come, and I'll show you."

Visiting variety stores convinced Sortile that there was indeed a viable button market out there.

"I saw the possibilities, and that night I talked them over with my wife," he said.

Sortile was hooked.

He got a job with the distributor, who had 15 stores at the time.

"After seven years, I'd built that up to 135 stores," said Sortile. "Then, he called me into his office and said, 'Vince, you're making more money than me. I'm going to cut your commission.'"

Sortile quit and decided to follow his wife's suggestion to go into business for himself.

He had all the right contacts. His customers went with him. All but the original 15, that is; he felt it would be unfair to spirit them away.

"(But they all came back to me after a year," he says.)

His employer had left some suppliers because of their prices. With 20 years' experience and a built-in clientele, Sortile had no trouble filling out his inventory on credit. Suppliers were willing to wait for his payments as he built up his business. ("I paid them back as fast as I could," he says.)

Since that time, back in the 1960s, Sortile has been a wholesaler. He has his own company, Exclusive Buttons. He also couldn't have timed things better for tapping into a great source (and an unexpected one) for rounding out his inventory.

He decided to open a shop, devoting just two days a week to filling variety store racks with his wares.

"Then the five- and 10-cent stores started going out of business," he says. "Eventually, I was back down to just 15 stores."

Sortile was also buying up all the button stock from the closing stores. Thousands of the buttons he obtained were already 40 and 50 years old when he got them.

"At one point I had two garages full," he says. "You had to access everything with a six-foot ladder."

In the meantime, his El Cerrito button shop was becoming better-known. He'd opened Exclusive Buttons at 10252 San Pablo Avenue 16 years ago; he's been there ever since, and the shop just gets more and more popular.

"I never thought it would go over," he says. "It's just unbelievable."

Variety and affordable prices

have to be among the keys to the shop's success. Customers are amazed when they can buy a glass button from the 1920s for \$1.50, a vintage card from the teams for \$2 or \$3. Even the true antiques beat most antique store prices.

"I'm a wholesaler," says Sortile, who owns the Exclusive Buttons line that's well-represented with buttons from the 1950s and '60s. "I have to buy in five- to 10-gross lots from the mill. I have thousands of buttons, and I like to deal in quantity to keep the stock moving."

He also continues to commission buttons for manufacture. The key, he says, is offer items that are functional and can be used in more than one way. He points to his "metals" inventory as a good example. There are thousands of buttons created from a variety of metals, including newly-crafted pewter. Many are of classic design that could be used on a wide variety of garments.

Sortile loves helping people find what they need, and he never seems to tire of working with his tiny inventory. There's actually only been one drawback to his life's work. He's developed carpal tunnel syndrome (and had to have an operation on his wrist) from all the sorting.

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and then saying, 'Wait a minute, look at this!'" says Sortile. He and Mary agree that it was her husband who kept the limit even at \$400. They also agree that the woman will absolutely get her money back — covering her purchases and the plane trip — when she's finished her pins.

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